Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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FBIS-NES-95-205 *24 October 1995*

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Inter-Arab Affairs

Deported Palestinians To Go to Syria, Jordan

NC2010132695 Nicosia Cyprus Broadcasting Corporation Radio Network in Greek 1130 GMT 20 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The drama of most of the 650 Palestinians who have been deported from Libya will finally end tomorrow. The Palestinians are on the ship the "Contessa M," which has been anchored off Larnaca for four consecutive days. According to a CyBC [Cyprus Broadcasting Corporation] correspondent at Larnaca port, a Syrian ship will sail into Larnaca port tomorrow morning and take 590 Palestinians with Syrian travel documents to Latakia, Syria.

Interior Minister Dinos Mikhailidhis told CyBC this morning that in addition 10 people have Jordanian travel documents and the Cypriot Government will make arrangements for them to be taken to Jordan.

The interior minister said an investigation is being conducted to determine what kind of travel documents the rest of the Palestinians possess so that appropriate arrangements can be made. Mikhailidhis stressed that no one ever raised the possibility of the Palestinians remaining in Cyprus.

Memo to League Asks For Help on Deportee Issue

NC2310162495 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1435 GMT 23 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 23 Oct (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid met today with Ambassador Muhammad Subayh, secretary of the Palestine National Council and Palestine's permanent envoy to the Arab League.

Subayh said after the meeting that he delivered to Dr. 'Abd-al- Majid a memorandum on the situation of the Palestinian deportees on the Libyan-Egyptian border. He said the memorandum gives a lot of data on the problems and inhumane conditions suffered by the deportees after their departure from Libya.

He said the Palestinian memorandum asks the Arab League secretary general to hold further contacts with Libyan President Mu'ammar al- Qadhdhafi on the problem.

Ambassador Subayh said life is extremely difficult for the deportees on the Libyan-Egyptian border. He explained that 256 deportees are under 18 years old and many of them are infants. He said diarrhea has spread among the children because of high water salinity, and insects are rapidly spreading infections.

He said the deportees include 80 women, 15 of whom are pregnant. He noted that a woman gave birth yesterday and that her baby died. The woman is now in the intensive care unit, he said. Seven women are staying in the camp without their husbands, he added.

Subayh said the deportees include 140 students who have been deprived of continuing their studies at schools and universities this year.

He pointed out that 1,030 Palestinians now live in the deportees camps and that the number is increasing daily, especially because people are being deprived of their jobs, are expelled, and are being denied residency permits.

He said many Arab attempts are being made to solve the problem of the deportees. Noting that the problem of the ship off Larnaca was largely solved, he said: There remains some humanitarian cases we hope will end soon.

On Syria's decision to receive 610 Palestinians deported by Libya, Ambassador Muhammad Subayh said: We welcome any Arab help to end the suffering of the Palestinian people, and we welcome any Arab country respecting its signature on the protocol that organizes the presence of the Palestinian people in the Arab countries until they return to their homeland.

He thanked the Syrian authorities for this positive step, hoping that further steps will be made by the Arab countries, especially Libya, which can end the crisis.

Subayh said: If Libya, by expelling the Palestinians, wanted to send a certain message to the world, it has already done this. He stressed that the continuing torture and humiliation of the Palestinian people — men, women, and children — is unjustified.

He expressed his belief that what is happening to the Palestinians is not right. He said the Palestinians must return to their jobs and homes so that the Palestinian leadership can continue its work to return all refugees to the Palestinian state.

Asked what he hopes from the press conference that Colonel al- Qadhdhafi will hold later, Subayh said the entire Arab nation is waiting for Colonel al-Qadhdhafi to announce the end of this chapter and the agony of the Palestinian people, who do not deserve this agony because they helped build Libya.

[In a related report, Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic at 1500 GMT on 23 October adds: "The Arab League secretary general started immediate contacts with Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to end the problem within the close relationship between the secretary general and the Libyan colonel."]

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Palestinian Affairs

Continued U.S. Detention of Abu-Marzuq Viewed

MM2310165895 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 23 Oct 95 p 9

[Article by Fahmi Huwaydi: "How Long the Silence About Abu-Marzuq's Arrest?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] By the end of the week three months will have elapsed since the U.S. authorities arrested Dr. Musa Abu-Marzuq, head of the Political Bureau of the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas), in an unprecedented step by the U.S. Administration which has provoked anger among ordinary Arabs and an astonishing silence in the Arab political rhetoric.

Some time before Abu-Marzuq's visit to the United States, which was not completed, Jerry Adams, the political official of the IRA, was warmly received in U.S. political circles, even though the man represents the political wing of an armed resistance movement that had caused continued alarm for the British Government for over 25 years. Despite the relative similarity between the roles of the two men, whether with regard to their positions in their movements or the legitimacy of the resistance adopted by the IRA and Hamas (even though the Israeli occupation of Palestine is more flagrant and serious), the main difference is that Dr. Abu-Marzuq represents a movement confronting the Israeli occupation, which the United States supports by all means.

If the man did not violate U.S. laws and went to the United States because he holds a green card that entitles him to reside and work there, if he did not commit any action against the United States and its people, and if he is the head of the Political Bureau of a movement limiting its role to resisting the Israeli occupation of Palestine, which is a legitimate right guaranteed by all international conventions.... If all this is true, then the only justification for Abu-Marzuq's arrest is, to be specific, nothing other than his role in resisting the Israeli occupation!

There is actually nothing new in this conclusion. But the question is: Why did the U.S. authorities decide to arrest and detain him, and why did they not just refuse him entry or deport him to any other state, for example? Besides, why all the delay and procrastination in releasing him, with the use of various excuses and pretexts?

There are several possible answers to the question:

— The aim behind the arrest is to portray the U.S. Administration as a body that deals decisively with any force or element that "touches a single hair" of Israel's. It is a message President Clinton wants to get across to the Americans, especially the pressure groups loyal to Israel. First, because the administration needs their votes in the next elections. Second, because the U.S. President now relies heavily on his foreign policy achievements (such as peace in the Middle East and Bosnia) after his failure to make significant achievements at the domestic level.

— The aim is to weaken Hamas and to tighten the siege of it by pursuing its symbols wherever they are — which is definitely welcomed by Israel and could also be welcomed by the Palestinian "National" Authority in Gaza.

— The aim is to find an internal channel to reach an understanding with and settle outstanding matters between Hamas and Israel, in the belief that detaining someone provides a better opportunity to reach an understanding with him, on the grounds that he is in a psychological situation that prompts him to make concessions or to display a large degree of "flexibility." Understandings are reached and "deals" concluded with many leaders while in prison. The most recent was Nelson Mandela, president of the Republic of South Africa. The political map of the country was drawn up before his release.

In this context we must note that when Abu-Marzuq was arrested, the Israeli authorities were holding Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, the movement's founder, and Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al- Rantisi, a prominent leader of the movement, and the Palestinian "National" Authority was holding another leader, Dr. Mahmud al- Zahhar (who was recently released). We do not rule out that there is a link between the negotiations held with these detained leaders and the developments occurring in Hamas's position, represented by the suspension of military operations and the trend toward forming a political party to participate in the next elections.

Whatever the reason behind the continued detention of Dr. Abu- Marzuq, maybe the worst significance is that it was tantamount to a declaration that the United States has entered the conflict as a direct party against the Palestinian resistance to the Israeli occupation. True, some previous indications gave a similar impression. Perhaps the most important was the U.S. Administration's decision to restrict the Palestinians' activities on U.S. territory, especially the collection of donations, even those allocated to humanitarian and charity purposes in the occupied territories. But Musa Abu-Marzuq's arrest remains the most blunt indicator in this connection.

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Is it in the U.S. interest to take such a direct and hostile position toward the Palestinian resistance in general and the Islamic in particular?

My information says that throughout its struggle march Hamas has been keen to limit its activities to resisting the Israeli occupation. It has never carried out any activities outside these boundaries. It has not harmed any U.S. interests, nor has it takeen part in any conflict beyond the boundaries of the occupied territories, especially with regard to the problems occurring between some Arab governments and a number of wings of the Islamic movement.

Hamas has not concealed this position. It expressed it in one of the statements it issued after the incident of Dr. Abu-Marzuq's arrest. It said that Hamas "has always been remote from attacking U.S. interests, despite the U.S. hostility toward the Palestinian people inside the occupied Palestinian territories. And it has limited its fight to the Zionist enemy inside the occupied Palestinian territories. It is this enemy which should be dealt with as a terrorist organization." This statement was issued in reply to U.S. statements alleging that Dr. Abu-Musa belongs to a Palestinian terrorist organization.

It is no secret that the head of the Hamas Political Bureau was arrested for purely political reasons, and his arrest has no legal basis. We must acknowledge that this step would not have been taken had it not been for the dominant Israeli influence in President Clinton's administration. This influence is now openly reported by the Israeli press (do not forget the article published by the newspaper MA'ARIV, entitled: Jews Rule America!) As for the pretexts provided by Israel for accusing Abu-Marzuq of involvement in "terrorism," and on which it based its demand for his extradition, they are merely a cover aimed at continuing and justifying the man's detention.

However, the question that should be asked in this connection is: Would the United States have managed to do what it has done against Dr. Abu-Marzuq had it not been for the collapse in the Arab order and the weakness that has reached the point of humiliation?

What has happened to the head of the Hamas Political Bureau is not only a U.S. violation of the legitimate right to resist any foreign occupation, a declaration of the U.S. surrender to Israeli whims, and hostility toward national liberation forces and the Islamic movement, but a humiliating slap in the face for the Arab nation.

We had expected the official Arab rhetoric to make a move to defend Abu-Marzuq's case and his right to regain his freedom. We had hoped that the efforts of Arab public organizations would be pooled to demand the man's release, since his only crime is his affiliation to a movement exercising a legitimate right guaranteed by international charters and conventions and supported by all the free and honorable people of the world.

When neither one nor the other happen, are we to lay all the blame with the U.S. position alone?

When Rabin's government decided to confiscate and seize the Arab land in Jerusalem, and when the U.S. Administration hastened to support it at the time, an Israeli writer asked in the newspaper LE MONDE: Why does Washington help Israel to make outrageous decisions?

It is the opposite in Dr. Abu-Marzuq's case, and we are entitled to ask: Why does Washington hasten to make foolish decisions in Israel's favor?

Hamas 'Worried' About Abu-Marzuq Extradition

JN2310154895 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic 23 Oct 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] AL-MAJD learned that Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] quarters are worried because of the increasing possibility of the extradition to Israel of their Political Bureau Head Musa Abu-Marzuq, who was arrested in the United States.

This worry was expressed through the intensified efforts by Hamas to increase Arab and Islamic political and media pressure on the U.S. Administration to make it reject the Israeli request to extradite Abu-Marzuq to stand trial in Israel.

An informed source told AL-MAJD that the U.S. Administration is leaning toward responding to the pressure of Israel and the Jewish lobby in the United States regarding the extradition of Abu-Marzuq, who will stand trial in New York on 24 October.

During the first session of the trial, the detailed Israeli bill of indictment against Abu-Marzuq will be presented. The 1,000-page bill of indictment consists of the text of the extradition treaty signed between the United States and Israel in 1963, the text of the extradition request, testimonies on Hamas military operations, statements by a number of Hamas detainees in Israeli jails on the role of Abu-Marzuq, a statement by an American national of Palestinian origin Muhammad Salah, the text of a television interview with Abu-Marzuq conducted by Lebanese al-Manar TV station, and the minutes of his interrogation at the New York Airport. The interrogator accused Abu-Marzuq of lying because he denied his possession of the notebook which was later found with his wife. The notebook lists telephone numbers of 400 persons in America and the Arab homeland.

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The political affiliations of these people were identified through U.S. coordination with a number of Arab intelligence organs.

In his statement to AL-MAJD, the informed source said that during the signing of the Taba accord in Washington, the Arab institutions committee in America, which is following the Abu-Marzuq case, tried to meet with King Husayn, President Husni Mubarak, and Yasir 'Arafat to ask them to approach the U.S. Administration to mediate the release of the Hamas leader. However, the U.S. Protocol Department aborted the committee's efforts.

The informed source also said that the committee met with Salim al-Za'nun, acting speaker of the Palestine National Council [PNC], during his recent visit to America, and asked for the Palestinian Authority's intervention to resolve the issue of Abu-Marzuq politically before extraditing him to Israel.

Al-Za'nun expressed readiness to visit Abu-Marzuq in his jail and to speak with Yasir 'Arafat in this regard. He, however, hinted that nobody from Hamas asked the authority to intervene although Hamas sought the mediation of many Arab and Islamic sides.

The informed source noted that Abu-Marzuq responded to the desire of the committee's delegation, which visited him in jail and asked him to address a message to al-Za'nun, in his capacity as the acting speaker of the PNC, which is still considered a body of the PLO, not the Palestinian Authority.

In the message, of which AL-MAJD received a copy, Abu-Marzuq called for adopting a political solution to his arrest within a period of one month, that is, before proceeding with the legal measures, because by then nobody will be able to do anything. In his message to al-Za'nun, Abu-Marzuq said: "You know better than me what to do whether through brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], through an Arab side, like Jordan, particularly since al-Sharif Zayd spoke with my wife and promised to help, or even through the U.S. Administration itself."

Concluding his letter, Abu-Marzuq said: "I hope the lawyer will succeed in arranging for the visit. If he does not succeed this is in brief what I want to explain. I hope that God will grant me wellbeing through you."

Abu-Marzuq's Wife Says Morale 'Still High'

JN2310134995 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic 23 Oct 95 p 2

[From the "From the Window" column]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Musa Abu-Marzuq, head of the Political Bureau of the Hamas [Islamic Resistance] Movement, who has been in detention in New York since last July, reads AL-MAJD, AL-SABIL, AL-QUDS, and three daily and weekly American newspapers. He also reads dozens of letters which he receives from all over the Arab nation.

Abu-Marzuq's wife, who told AL-MAJD this by telephone, said her husband has recently lost 13 kg. She said her husband had a medical checkup in the presence of his lawyer and that he will be allowed to have a special diet since he has diabetes. His morale is still high, she added.

U.S. Freeze of Abu-Marzuq's Bank Account Ridiculed

JN2310135195 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic 23 Oct 95 p 2

[From the "From the Window" column]

[FBIS Translated Text] America, the superpower, has issued a special federal decision freezing a private account in the name of Musa Abu-Marzuq and his wife in an American bank.

There are $3000 in Abu-Marzuq's account. What a huge sum!

'Arafat Meets With U.S. Jewish Group

TA2410103295 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 24 Oct 95 pp 1, 2

[Report by Marilyn Henry in New York]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat was warmly received by American Jews yesterday at a meeting in New York that was unprecedented for simply occurring in public, but covered little new ground.

"We have to accept or not accept that we are cousins," 'Arafat told the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council. "These are the facts. Not only cousins, but partners."

Disregarding a prepared text, 'Arafat said, "The majority of the masses are for the peace process, and the [Palestinian] election will show it."

But it would not be easy, he said, calling Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres "lucky."

"They have one opposition. I have many," 'Arafat said, to chuckles as he held out his hand with four fingers displayed. He then counted off: Islamic, Palestinian, Arab, and Christian opposition, the last referring to his foes in the Democratic and Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

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'Arafat did not specifically renounce terror, other than to make a quick reference in a near comedic tone, "We have Arab extremists. Now we have Jewish extremists."

He said there was no agreement between Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the PLO, adding there is coordination between "our fanatic groups and Israeli fanatic groups to sabotage the peace process."

'Arafat also did not mention any of the key issues still remaining between Israel and the PLO, including Jerusalem, settlements or his insistence on the Palestinian "right of return."

Police estimated that 250 people, half of them reporters, packed the small meeting room in the midtown Manhattan building owned by Bnai Zion, a fraternal Jewish organization.

In a rambling address, he blamed the British, in part, for the animosity between Arabs and Jews. "We should not forget that we are paying the price for what was done by the British Mandate. Before the British Mandate, we were living together peacefully. We were neighbors," he said, speaking in English. "Then came the partition plan and the Palestinian exodus."

In addition to the Orthodox Union, which said earlier it would boycott the event, there were some notable absences, including officials representing the Anti-Defamation League, the American Jewish Congress, and the American Jewish Committee.

'Arafat's 20-minute talk was extemporaneous and somewhat repetitive. Little new ground was covered when he agreed to answer questions.

"You have to understand our terminology," 'Arafat said in defending his use of the word "jihad" to Arab audiences.

When asked about the Arab boycott of Israel, he snapped: "I would like to ask the Israel government to stop the boycott with us. Tell His Excellency Mr. Rabin to stop the boycott of the Palestinians."

When 'Arafat started to speak, a young man and a young woman shouted, "Shame on you" and "He's a murderer!" A phalanx of security personnel hustled the two out of the building, while some 50 other protesters stood outside shouting "Murderer! Murderer!" into bullhorns.

The traditional American Jewish host for foreign officials, the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, also did not attend the meeting. A delegation of the current leadership and former chairmen of the conference is to meet privately with 'Arafat today.

PA Insists on Ruling Villages in Jerusalem Area

TA2410093395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 24 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Palestinian Authority [PA] spokesman Sa'ib 'Urayqat says the PA will control all the Arab neighborhoods and villages in the vicinity of Jerusalem. He denied reports that al-Ram, located north of Jerusalem, and other Palestinian townships in the Ramallah area will fall within the Israeli-controlled area.

According to him, the interim accord maps show that al-Ram, Abu- Dis, al-'Ayzariyah, al-Sawahirah, Hizma, 'Anata, Bayt Iksa, and old Bayt Hanina fall under PA jurisdiction.

Security Force Commander Visits Hebron

JN2210202895 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1900 GMT 22 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Brigadier General al-Haj Isma'il Jabr, commander of the National Security Force in the West Bank, today visited Hebron. He met there with the mayor and members of the municipal council.

The conferees discussed the status of Hebron according to the Taba agreement and the Palestinian preparations to assume control in the rural areas in the governorate as soon as the occupation troops complete their withdrawal from these areas, which is expected on 10 December.

Poll Shows Increased Support for 'Arafat

JN2210160595 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1400 GMT 22 Oct 95

[Report by Yusuf al-Qazzaz]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Nabulus-based Palestinian Research and Studies Center conducted an opinion poll on the Taba accord and the upcoming Palestinian elections. The outcome of the poll was published today. It shows that 72 percent of those polled support the Taba accord, and that 18 percent are opposed to the accord. Moreover, 50 percent of those polled support an amendment to the Palestinian National Charter, whereas this is opposed by 39 percent of those polled. Forty six percent of those polled believe that the negotiations will lead to the creation of a Palestinian state.

The poll indicates that 43 percent of the sample used believe that the performance of the National Authority [NA] with regard to the prisoners issue is good, while less than 20 percent of the sample used believe that the NA's performance with regard to Hebron was good.

The poll shows that 91 percent of those polled believe that participation in the legislative elections is a national

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duty. Nonetheless, 40 percent of the sample used believe that the elections will give the NA an excuse to suppress the opposition. Furthermore, the poll indicates that 81 percent of those polled will register for the elections, whereas only 68 percent will take part in the elections, even if they are boycotted by the opposition.

Furthermore, the poll shows that 51 percent of those polled support relative representation, whereas 40 percent support the simple majority concept. The poll indicates that over 70 percent of the Palestinians view the upcoming elections as a change for the better, that they will promote personal security, and that they constitute a step forward toward the exercise by the Palestinian people of their right to self-determination. Over 67 percent of those polled believe that the elections will promote democracy, whereas 61 percent of the sample used believe that the chance of improved economic conditions in the aftermath of the elections is real.

The poll shows that 54 percent of Palestinians believe that the elections will be honest, whereas 22 percent do not think so.

In a remarkable development, the poll shows that 70 percent of the Palestinians are ready to elect women to the legislative council, whereas 25 percent are opposed to this. The poll also indicates that the popularity of President Yasir 'Arafat has risen to 58 percent, and that the Fatah Movement enjoys the support of 53 percent of those polled.

The poll indicates that if elections to the post of Palestinian National Authority president were held in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip now, President 'Arafat would win the elections with 66 percent of the public vote.

The sample used by the Palestinian Research and Studies Center totaled 1,144 persons, including 729 in the West Bank and 415 in the Gaza Strip. The poll was conducted on 13-15 October.

PA Approves New Islamic Party in Gaza Strip

TA2010115895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 20 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian Authority [PA] has given its permission to set up a new Islamic party in the Gaza Strip, which will be called The Islamic National Union. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that the party will be headed by three former Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists who no longer have any ties to the organization. It is the second Islamic party established in the Gaza Strip with the PA's permission.

Editorial Examines Hamas-PA Dialogue, Ties

TA2310093895 Gaza AL-WATAN in Arabic 19 Oct 95 p 3

[Editorial: "The Required Dialogue"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The dialogue that is expected to take place between the Palestinian Authority [PA] and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] in one of the Arab capitals is an important event. For this is the first time that a dialogue on this level will take place between the two sides since the PA's arrival in the self-rule areas. The dialogue's plan should stem from a feeling of high responsibility for our people and their many interests, and should be launched from a firm and clear platform based on mutual respect, the spread of a climate of confidence, and the implementation of goodwill measures.

The recent period between Hamas and the PA has been bitter, harsh, and bad in the true sense of the word. What increased the bitterness was the fact that the PA was maliciously bent on undermining Hamas and breaking its power. It launched unfair and unjustified campaigns of detention. This produced a climate of tension, mistrust, and rupture between the two sides. If today the PA wishes to foster a new era, it should abandon the method of "breaking bones" and "twisting arms," because the failure of such methods has been proved throughout history. It would have been more proper for the PA to admit Hamas' and other factions' prominent role, jihad, and resistance against the enemy, instead of detaining and harassing them.

Lifting the psychological barrier between the two sides will not be easy, because this would mean that things will have to change on the ground rather than being mere signatures on paper.

This homeland is not the property of one party but belongs to all the Palestinian people inside and in the diaspora regardless of their different political tendencies. The two sides must — first and foremost — understand that the political conditions which we are experiencing are abnormal and unnatural and do not respond to the Palestinian people's interests. Therefore, it is not right for political agreements to be imposed on the nature of the dialogue, because each side has its own special position and should not obligate the other side to accept its convictions. Hence, it is essential to find common denominators, based on the Palestinian people's supreme interest, on which the two sides will converge. Moreover, the method of a strong side and a weak side must be eliminated from the arena of dialogue, because both sides hold the allegiance of a large part of the Pales-

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tinian people and there is no other way than mutual respect and understanding the positions of the other side.

Fatah's Habash Sees Taba's 'Positive' Aspects

MM2410103195 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 22 Oct 95 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Fatah Official Believes Taba Agreement More Unjust Than Declaration of Principles"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Tunis, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT — A prominent Fatah leader has criticized the Taba agreement on the expansion of Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank.

Fatah Central Committee Member Sakhr Habash said that the agreement is more unjust than the Oslo agreement and includes gaps, bad results, and violations of the essence of the Oslo agreement, which called for peaceful coexistence based on Israel's withdrawal from the West Bank and Gaza and the establishment of a Palestinian national authority to exercise self-rule until a final solution is secured. He added that despite the Taba agreement's many flaws, its signing was delayed for more than 18 months as a result of Israeli procrastination and evasion, proving a fundamental principle among the Israelis, namely the lack of respect for dates and pledges.

In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Habash said that, despite the gaps in the agreement, we cannot ignore the positive aspects which would be achieved if it is implemented. He stressed that the Israeli forces' withdrawal from West Bank cities, the transfer of Palestinian security forces to these cities, and the total or almost total control of about 30 percent of the area of the West Bank would impose a new reality on the ground, putting an end to the phrase "Gaza first and last." It would also put an end to the phrase "Jordanian solution" promoted by some Zionists.

Habash, who returned recently to Tunis after heading Fatah's organizational meetings in Gaza, said: Israel is trying now, having entered the transitional phase, to impose the idea of deferring issues concerning this phase to the final phase. It did the same with regard to the Cairo agreement, since it deferred many issues concerning the Gaza-Jericho phase to the transitional phase, such as the safe corridor issue, which still has not been achieved, control of the crossings, the economic policy, and the area of Jericho.

Abu-Nizar [Sakhr Habash] stressed that, if anyone looks at the present map of the West Bank and the yellow and brown colors imposed by Israel, he will find that the homeland looks like a body infected by smallpox. This map, he said, contains scattered spots called area "A," whose area does not exceed 3 percent of the area of the West Bank. Their total area does not exceed the area of the liberated areas in the Gaza Strip.

He added that the yellow areas total 24 percent and include a number of villages, cities, and camps where the National Authority will exercise its civilian administration, while security will be a joint task, with the Israelis having the upper hand.

As for the other areas of the West Bank, which represent about 71 percent, including only 9 percent for Israeli settlements and military posts, they are the public and waqf [religious endowment] land from which Israel has postponed its withdrawal to the final solution phase, which will practically begin on 4 May next year.

Habash pointed out that this situation explains the injustice and bad results of the Taba agreement "Oslo-2" regarding land. He said that the water issue too was badly addressed, and had it not been for the Palestinians' insistence on not abandoning Palestinian rights, Israel would have gotten what it wanted, the Palestinians' recognition of its right to 80 percent of the West Bank's waters.

Habash stressed that the Israelis are using Hebron as an indicator for their policy on land and settlements with regard to the final solution on the one hand and the disregard for the final solution concerning Jerusalem on the other.

In this context Habash said that Israel's thinking — not considering Hebron a populated Palestinian city like the other six cities, because of the existence of 400 settlers — indicates that the 125,000 present in area "C" will retain the largest area of the land to protect their settlements, which they do not intend to relinquish. The same applies to Jerusalem.

Habash said that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat's extensive pressure and threat to withdraw from the negotiations forced [Israel] to consider Hebron one of the six cities, excepting the case of the Jews who have seized the heart of the city.

Habash pointed out that during 'Arafat's meeting with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres at the Erez crossing the Israelis were able to take back with the left hand what they offered with the right hand in Taba with regard to Hebron. They imposed their timetable, which demands an early withdrawal in return for early elections, excluding Hebron — making its treatment as a Palestinian city conditional on the results of the elections and the amendment to the national charter.

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Habash added that in addition to the Hebron gap, there is another gap in the Taba agreement concerning the detainees. In this context he pointed out that Yitzhaq Rabin and the governor of the central zone have breached their agreement regarding the release of all the detained sisters — which proves Israel's bad intentions and that one should not rely on promises.

Habash expressed his optimism about the Palestinian national security forces' preparedness and extensive presence in the areas of the West Bank, saying that the state of invigoration resulting from this will lead to the imposition of the concept of the Palestinian reading of the unjust Oslo agreement and the more unjust agreements that followed it, perpetuating Fatah unity and cohesion in order to revive Palestinian national unity on the ground and enter the rebuilding stage toward establishing an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital.

'Abbas Denied Entry Visa to Jordan

JN2310212595 Amman AL-HADATH in Arabic 25 Oct 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Jordanian authorities refused to give Muhammad 'Abbas, also known as Abu-al-'Abbas, secretary general of the Palestinian Liberation Front, a visa to enter Jordanian territory.

Informed sources told AL-HADATH that Jordanian competent authorities frequently rejected requests submitted by 'Abbas in this regard to avoid tension with the United States and Israel. This is because Abu-al-'Abbas, who supervised the hijacking of the "Achille Lauro" ship, is wanted by Washington and Tel Aviv.

The sources pointed out that Abu-al-'Abbas can no longer endure staying in Baghdad, and that his health condition is bad for unknown reasons.

In another development, AL-HADATH learned that Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, also seeks a visa to enter Jordanian territory on his way to the Iraqi capital, Baghdad. The reason Hawatimah wants to visit Baghdad are not known yet. However, some sources close to him believe that he may wish to join the efforts to achieve Syrian-Iraqi reconciliation. This is due to the fact that after the Oslo B agreement was signed, Hawatimah's political role as one of the key opponents to the PLO-Israeli agreements began to decline.

Participation in Amman Summit Confirmed

JN2210112095 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 22 Oct 95 p 23

[Report by Samir Sa'd al-Din in Jerusalem]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] President Yasir 'Arafat has recently expressed great dismay at statements by a senior economic official to the effect that the Palestinian Authority [PA] might not take part in the Amman economic summit, given that Israel does not implement the agreements it signed with the Palestinians. The official, who occupies a significant post in the Palestinian Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction, PECDAR, has conducted a study in which he said that Israel will be the first beneficiary from the economic summit and that the Palestinian side will make only marginal gains. He distributed copies of the study to various establishments and businessmen.

This official is also responsible for statements signed by businessmen on their decision not to take part in the summit. The PA did not issue any statements to the effect that it will not take part in the summit. The PA realizes that its absence from the summit will be very costly. Moreover, this participation pertains to Jordanian-Palestinian coordination. Informed Palestinian sources told us that action will be taken against this senior employee and other employees against the backdrop of these statements.

Palestinian officials had recently said that the PA will attend the summit and that no statements to the contrary were issued. Two days ago, Economy Minister Ahmad Quray', member of the Palestinian official delegation to the summit, told the media that nothing prevents the PA from participating in Amman economic summit, which is devoted in the first place for those involved in the peace process.

Quray's said that Israel's closure of the West Bank and Gaza Strip has frustrated businessmen and citizens, who suffer from the closure. The West Bank and Gaza losses from economic strangulation total $6 million per day. This prompted businessmen to issue a statement condemning the closure and calling for lifting it and allowing them to participate in the summit. They also called for the free flow of goods between the West bank and Gaza and across the bridges and Rafah Crossing. Quray' stated that it was not in the interest of the PA not to attend the summit. [passage omitted]

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New Libyan Measures Against Students Protested

JN2310180795 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1400 GMT 23 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In a statement issued today, the Palestinian Information Ministry called on the Arab League and its Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid and the Egyptian Government to immediately interfere to save the Palestinians who were deported from Libya.

In its statement, the ministry expressed its astonishment at the Libyan authorities's exacerbation of the crisis at a time when the cause of the Palestinian community in Libya started to draw Arab and international sympathy. The ministry said that this clearly reveals the Libyan goal of staging a political battle against the Palestinian people with the aim of bringing the forgotten Libyan presence to the fore.

The statement pointed out the Banghazi authorities' decision to prevent 2,000 Palestinian university students, who study in Libyan universities and colleges, from pursuing their education as a preliminary step to deport them and to deprive some 5,000 school pupils from attending their schools in the new scholastic year in Libya.

Arab-Israeli Talks

No Agreement Reached on Janin Redeployment

JN2410084495 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0600 GMT 24 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A Palestinian-Israeli meeting was held in Ramallah late last night to discuss arrangements for the redeployment of the occupation forces in the Janin area, which is scheduled to begin tomorrow.

The two sides also discussed the Palestinian forces' deployment in the Janin area and the deadline for handing over the city to the National Authority. The meeting continued until dawn today.

It appears that the two sides have not reached agreement on the controversial issues regarding redeployment in the Janin area. The meeting was attended on the Palestinian side by Major General Ziyad al-Atrash, official in charge of the liaison committee, Brigadier General al-Hajj Isma'il Jabr, commander of the National Security. On the Israeli side, the meeting was attended by Gabi Ofir, commander of the occupation army forces, and a number of Israeli military officials.

Qatari Deputy Prime Minister, Rabin Meet at UN

JN2410074395 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0700 GMT 24 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] New York, 24 Oct (WAKH)—Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, Qatari deputy prime minister and interior minister, met here last night with Yitzhaq Rabin, Israeli prime minister, on the sidelines of the UN 50th anniversary celebrations.

The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Shaykh Hamad Bin-Jasim Bin-Jabr Al Thani.

The QATARI NEWS AGENCY said talks at the meeting dealt with latest developments of the Middle East peace process.

Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Khalifah Al Thani also received at his residence in New York last night Iraqi Vice President Taha Muhyi-al-Din Ma'ruf and discussed bilateral relations and the latest regional and international developments.

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Algeria

Islamic Salvation Front Leader's Sons Arrested

LD1910175295 Paris LCI Television in French 1700 GMT 19 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] We learned today that the German authorities have had two sons of the Algerian fundamentalist leader, Abassi Madani, arrested. They are suspected of trafficking in arms on behalf of antigovernment forces in Algeria.

TV Election Broadcasts by Sadi, Boukrouh

LD2310225595

[FBIS Editorial Report] Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic at 1837 GMT on 23 October broadcasts an 8-minute recorded election campaign address by Said Sadi, presidential candidate of the Rally for Culture and Democracy. He first thanks the citizens who have helped him in gathering signatures, and invites everyone to cast their votes on election day to make it into "a popular movement for democracy."

Sadi says that he is standing as a candidate because the time needs new men with new ideas to resolve the crisis in which Algeria is living. He continues: "Brothers, remember, remember, remember what catastrophes we could have saved the country from if we saw an official with little political courage at the time when we used to say: Beware of politicizing religion. This is impossible. This thing splits society, and we have reached this stage. Second, we said people must beware of forging history, and abandoning the identity. The youths do not have roots, and whoever comes takes them with him. We said people must beware of the family law which restrains women. It breaks down the Algerian family, and destroys the society. We said again: Beware of the ideological management of the economy. If they had heard us in 1989 when we said we should now go for the rescheduling [of Algeria's debts], then perhaps today the youths and workers would not be blamed for living in daily problems. We said again: Beware of the educational system, and the curricula which prevented the children from education which brings solidarity in the country, education which provides little knowledge [sentence as heard]. They did not listen to us. For 30 years I have been saying: Beware."

Sadi says that the authorities' response to this was imprisonment. He adds that the people want peace, which requires a strong state with credibility, and officials with political will.

He reminds viewers: "I was with you in the struggle against the one-party state. I was with you in the steadfastness against crime, and I will remain with you to find a solution, God willing, to this crisis."

Sadi stresses that the solution requires a break with the past, and calls on Algerians to unite.

Following this, at 1845 GMT, the station carries a recorded 15-minute election campaign broadcast by Noureddine Boukrouh, leader of the Algerian Renewal Party. Boukrouh introduces two young people with whom he holds a dialogue about young people's concerns and requests. They ask him questions about his plans to help the youth after he becomes president, and what will make him different from everyone else. He invites the youth to take the opportunity of the elections to express their views and make decisions in connection with the new Algeria.

Concerning rumors that the elections are a sham, Boukrouh tells the two young men that nobody can falsify the will of 13 million voters. He also lectures the two young men on past mistakes and practices, and says that he has ideas on how to resolve the problems of youth if he becomes president. He says that he will arrange for loans for them to invest in projects.

Labor Union Leader Advises Workers To Vote

MM2010151195 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 20 Oct 95 pp 1,4

[Report by Amir Taheri: "Algerian Workers' Union Supports Presidential Elections"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Algiers — The Algerian presidential elections were given strong support yesterday when the leader of the Algerian General Workers' Union [UGTA] said that he would advise "all workers to vote in the presidential elections."

Abdelhak Ben Hamouda pointed out that, since 1990, his organization has been calling for elections to be held, and that it now intends to ensure that the elections to be held next month will result in "the rebuilding of the nation's policy on the basis of new ideas, new faces, and new methods."

In an interview with AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, Ben Hamouda said that he would oppose any attempt to negotiate with the jailed leaders of the outlawed Islamic Salvation Front [FIS], whom he considers "criminals who have yet to get what they deserve, and therefore must be tried again." He added that he does not recommend supporting any of the four candidates who have been officially selected, saying: "We shall wait to hear what the candidates have to say and with whom they want to work." Ben Hamouda added that the labor movement would ultimately recommend voting against one of the candidates rather than recommend supporting

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one of them, and that he decided not to run in the elections so that he can help in making a new economic policy which would take into account the changes brought about by the current crisis in Algeria and the agreements concluded with the international donor banks and the IMF. He said: "There have been some attempts by an international group of fundamentalist extremists to destabilize Algeria." He referred specifically to Iran and Sudan, criticizing them and describing them as "two countries heading for catastrophe and trying to drag other countries with them in their dreadful journey of terror and misery."

Ben Hamouda's organization has 1.3 million members, but it is not clear how many of them consider him a political leader as well as a labor leader. His radical position opposed to any negotiations with the FIS and its affiliated armed groups is a warning to President Liamine Zeroual, said to be in favor of dialogue and a possible settlement.

In this context, Ben Hamouda said: "The so-called Islamic groups are nothing but gangs of criminals who collect funds through drug dealing and other illicit activities. There is no reason to talk to them or contact their political representatives. Do governments talk to drug barons in Latin America or terrorist gangs in Europe and Japan?"

Meanwhile, opposition parties have started planning for the post- election period after it has become clear that the current process will continue and cannot be stopped.

The Socialist Forces Front, the Berber minority's main party, held a meeting of its central committee yesterday to prevent a possible rift in its ranks. It reaffirmed its decision to boycott the presidential elections, but hinted that it would hold talks with any elected president in November, within a reasonable framework.

The National Liberation Front, the former ruling party, intends to hold a meeting of its central committee prior to the elections. Abdelhamid Mehri, its secretary general, told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that his party will be willing to talk with the "authorities" regardless of the election result.

Security Forces Eliminate 2 'Terrorist Groups'

LD2310200195 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 23 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A statement by the security services said today that their forces eliminated two terrorist groups composed of 14 terrorists during two search operations in Constantine between last Saturday and Sunday.

The security forces lso seized hunting rifles, cartridges, and hand grenades.

Death Toll From Car Bomb Rises to 11 Dead

LD2410105095 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 0630 GMT 24 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The number of victims of the booby trapped car explosion [22 October] in Mascara [as heard] has risen to 11 dead and 79 injured. The interior minister went to the scene on 23 October.

Egypt

Musa Delivers Mubarak's Speech at UN

NC2310160095 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1340 GMT 23 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] New York, 23 Oct (MENA)—Egypt has emphasized that the 50th anniversary of the United Nations is a unique opportunity to evaluate UN achievements, to see what has been accomplished and not accomplished, to note lessons learned and make conclusions, and to forge ahead to the future.

This came in President Mubarak's speech to the United Nations on its 50th anniversary. The speech was delivered today on his behalf by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa before the UN General Assembly.

President Mubarak said maintaining the principles and objectives of the UN Charter has been an achievement in and of itself. He added that the United Nations is credited with being a catalyst for change, a source of hope, and a factor for growth. Within the framework of the United Nations, colonialism has been abolished, racial discrimination has been eliminated, economic and social development theories have been formulated, and specialized international activity has intensified in all spheres.

President Mubarak explained that despite this, the bright picture is surrounded by many clouds. On its 50th anniversary, the United Nations is on the brink of bankruptcy. The attempts at hegemony and aggression continue to disturb international life; he referred to racial discrimination and religious non-tolerance being practiced in various parts of the world, the increasing economic imbalance between North and South, and the proliferation of nuclear weapons. He stated that this shows the serious political imbalance of the current order, which has resulted in double standards.

At the end of his speech, he called for building a world order without double standards or blind bias so that we

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can arrive at a future where there will be prosperity and stability for mankind. [passage omitted]

Muslim Brotherhood Military Trial Continues

Video, Audio Tapes Presented

NC2310191495 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1630 GMT 23 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 23 Oct (MENA)—The Higher Military Court held a session today to continue hearing the case of the dissolved Muslim Brotherhood, of which there are 49 defendants, nine of whom are fugitives.

The session began with the military prosecution presenting two letters to the court, one from the president of the Cairo Court of Appeals and the other from the public prosecutor. Both letters state that no state security court is now involved in the case, and that only the military judiciary is currently examining it.

The defense maintained its argument that the trial must be stopped because the State Security Court has not yet abandoned the case. It said the ruling of the Higher Constitutional Court on the matter must be awaited.

The defense also stressed that referring the case to the military judiciary is null because this violates the Constitution, which stipulates that civilians must be tried only by non-military judges.

The court panel suspended the session for deliberation. Reconvening after an hour, the court decided to continue hearing the case. It rejected the demand by the defense that the trial be halted because, contrary to what the defense says, there is no dispute between the two judiciaries involved in the case. This became clear after the arrival of the two letters from the president of the Cairo appeals court and the public prosecutor.

After that, the court opened the safe containing material relevant to the case: one video cassette and two audio cassettes. The video showed several defendants frequenting a building in al-Tawfiqiyah market.

The court adjourned the session until 25 October and asked the prosecution to submit a copy of the cassette's transcripts to the defense. It ordered that the detention of only the defendants in the case continue.

The session was attended by three Turkish lawyers representing the Lawyers Syndicate in Istanbul.

Video 'Evidence' Ridiculed

NC2310205295 Paris AFP in English 1828 GMT 23 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Huckstep, Egypt, Oct 23 (AFP)—The state's main piece of evidence in the military trial of 49 members of the Moslem Brotherhood on Monday [23 October] provoked the derision of lawyers and peals of laughter from a packed audience of supporters.

"This has nothing to do with the defendants. It shows tomatoes and squash," said Ahmad al-Khawaja, the head of the lawyers' union and one of the 60-member defense team, after seeing a 25-minute video presented by prosecutors.

Prosecutors at the Huckstep military base north of Cairo said the video recorded by police showed the accused gathering for a "secret meeting" in their downtown Cairo headquarters on January 19.

But the 500 lawyers and relatives of the accused attending the session burst into laughter when the video showed mostly scenes of an outdoor vegetable market in front the Brotherhood headquarters, an AFP correspondent said.

The camera focused for an extended period on one of the vegetable dealers smoking a cigarette until finally showing for a few seconds two of the defendants and Brotherhood spokesman Ma'mun al-Hudaybi, who is not accused in the case, entering the building.

The video was the center of their case against the 49 Brothers, who have been charged with "directing an illegal organization aiming to impede the rule of law and constitution."

The presiding judge did nothing to stop the hilarity as defense lawyers called the video "a documentary film on vegetables."

The court will hear two tapes which police say they recorded at the January meeting, as well as police witnesses, when the trial resumes Wednesday. [passages omitted]

'Isam al-'Iryan, one of the accused who appeared in the police video, told AFP that 50 of the total 79 Brotherhood defendants would present themselves as candidates in the elections. [passage omitted]

Students Protest Trials

NC2310152095 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 17 Oct 95 pp 1, 8

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] President Mubarak insists on escalating the political crisis in the country despite the

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unanimity of all the public's sections and trends to reject the trial of civilians by military courts. On 15 October he issued a decision referring 30 more popular and trade union leaders to military courts on charges of belonging to the Muslim Brotherhood (MB).

With this hysteric campaign against the Islamic trend, the regime is displaying its low popularity and its fear of an election defeat. Thus, it will be the first regime to organize elections under the sword of the military courts. [passage omitted]

In one of the first reactions, over 2,000 Islamist, Nasirist, and independent students yesterday staged a demonstration on the Cairo University campus to denounce the arrests and military trials and to demand freedom. The Central Security Forces surrounded the university and prevented the students from leaving. An officer attacked the demonstrators, exacerbating the situation between the demonstrators and the university guards. [passage omitted]

An official MB source has said the MB was not surprised by the referral of 30 more of Egypt's elite sons and the cream of its thinkers, intellectuals, politicians, and trade unionists to military courts on flimsy charges. He noted: These charges are not based on any evidence, they lack logic and wisdom, and raise several questions about the government's stance and policy, especially with the date of the elections approaching and because of the circumstances and climate surrounding the region. [passage omitted]

Among those referred to the military courts are Dr. 'Abd-al- Mun'im Abu-al-Futuh, assistant secretary general of the Arab Doctors Association; Dr. Anwar Shihatah, treasurer of the Doctors Association; Dr Mahmud Husayn, treasurer of the Engineers Association; Dr. al-Sayyid 'Abd-al-Sattar, secretary general of the Scientists Association; Dr. Husayn Shihatah, chief of the accounts department of the Merchants Association; Dr. Mahmud 'Izzat, a professor at the al-Zaqaziq Medical School; Dr Muhyi-al-Din al-Zayit; Dr. Sa'd Zaghlul 'Ashmawi, secretary of the Cairo Doctors Association; Dr. Hilmi al-Jazzar, a member of the al-Jizah Doctors Association; attorney Muhammad Gharib; Lashin Abu-Shanab, a former People's Assembly member; engineer Mahmud Basyuni, secretary of the Engineers Association in al-Qalyubiyah; al-Hajj Hilmi Mahmud, a merchant; 'Ali Mutawalli, an Islamic preacher; Muhsin al-Quway'i'; Jamal Sa'd Madi; Mustafa Ibrahim Mahmud; Tal'at Fahmi Khalifah; Fahmi Muhammad 'Amir; Usamah Sa'd Mahmud; and 'Abdallah Muhammad 'Abdallah. [passage omitted]

Denmark Asks Israel for Information on Qasim

NC2310192995 Paris AFP in English 1650 GMT 23 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Cairo, Oct 23 (AFP)—Denmark has asked Israel for information on the disappearance of an Egyptian Moslem militant leader who was arrested last month in Croatia, the Danish embassy in Cairo told AFP on Monday [23 October].

"After a request by the family of Tal'at Fu'ad Qasim, our consulate in Tel Aviv has opened contacts with Israel to find information on his disappearance," the embassy's ministerial councellor Finn Thilsted said.

Qasim, the "spokesman" for the Egyptian armed extremist group al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah, has had political asylum in Denmark since 1993. [passage omitted]

Israel Blamed for Stalemate on Syrian Track

NC2410070895 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2145 GMT 23 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 23 Oct (MENA)—AL-AHRAM and AL-AKHBAR newspapers criticize the Israeli stance on peace negotiations on the Syrian-Israeli track. They assert that Israel's intransigence is the reason for the current stumbling. In an editorial in Tuesday's edition, AL-AKHBAR says that any neutral observer cannot accuse Syria of being the reason for the stumbling besetting its negotiations with Israel, which has led to an almost total halt in negotiations since June. The paper notes the fair stand in which Syria it has repeatedly declared—"all land in return for peace." The paper cautions Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin against imagining that the agreements he concluded with Jordan or on the self-rule for Gaza and Jericho will fulfill his dreams of peaceful coexistence with the Arabs or of reaping any economic fruits from this false, partial settlement. The paper calls on the Israeli government to be more serious on the Syrian track if it wants a comprehensive and fair peace with the Arabs.

AL-AHRAM says that Israel's adherence to obtaining an early warning system on the Golan as a precondition for negotiations with Syria is an attempt to freeze the negotiations with Syria. The paper says that this stalemate is an attempt to act as if the Syrian party is responsible for the standstill, because Israel realizes that Syria will not approve of such a demand. AL-AHRAM points out that this stance enables Israel to maintain the required stalemate during implementation of the second phase of the Declaration of Principles with the Palestinian party and will put more pressure on Syria—assuming Syria will feel isolated after a settlement has been reached on the rest of the tracks.

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Libya's 'Fickle' Policies Criticized

NC2410075995 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 19 Oct 95 p 3

[From the "Good Morning" column by Sa'id Sunbul]

[FBIS Translated Text] The ruling authorities in Libya have been in the habit of playing with or deceiving its neighbors. First it closes its borders with one or all of its neighbors, and then it often calls for removing barriers and borders with its Arab neighbors and sends convoys and bulldozers to demolish the existing border gates. And then it declares its borders open to all Arab brothers in its capacity as the Great Arab Jamahiriyah, the great hope and dream of all Arabs.

The Libyan temper is fickle: Sometimes it is for the Arabs and sometimes against them. Sometimes it is for the Palestinians and sometimes against them. In the past few weeks, Libya decided to declare war on the Arab nationals who reside and work in Libya. It began with the Egyptians and Sudanese and then focused on the Palestinians. It expelled many from their homes and deported them to the Egyptian border, leaving them homeless and in the open. What is astonishing is that Colonel al-Qadhdhafi declared that the deportation conformed with the desire of the Palestinians themselves.

The deportation of Palestinians from Libya has turned into a crisis threatening the lives and future of 30,000 Palestinians, who have been residing and working in Libya for many years. Last week Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa went to Tripoli and met with Col. al-Qadhdhafi. On his return to Cairo he announced that the crisis was headed toward a solution and that Col. al-Qadhdhafi had promised to stop the expulsion of Palestinians. However, less then 24 hours after this statement, JANA carried a statement citing a Libyan official as saying that his country would continue to deport the Palestinians because they had requested it.

The latest Libyan stance is not surprising or strange and is not much different from other cases where Libya said one thing and did the opposite.

The Libyan brotherhood bureau in Cairo recently announced that Libya needs 750 Egyptian physicians of various specializations to work in various parts of Libya. It invited Egyptian doctors to apply for these jobs. The question here is: Who will guarantee that the Libyan authorities will not turn against these doctors and deport them without paying their salaries? In order to avoid the deportation of these doctors one day and so that it cannot be said that they are being deported at their own request, we call on the Ministry of Manpower in Egypt to intercede as a third party in all future contracts that Egyptians conclude with Libya so the ministry can guarantee the Egyptians' rights and salaries should the Libyans change their minds and decide to dispose of these Egyptian workers. Enough of humiliation for Egyptians in the countries of Arabism and brothers.

Libya

JANA Assails Clinton's Speech at UN

LD2310180595 Tripoli JANA in English 1437 GMT 23 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New York, 23 Oct, JANA — The American President made the inaugural speech during the 50th sesesion of the UN General Assembly and opted to cite a number of orders and instructions which reflect arrogance and intransigence and re-affirm the tendency of America's control over the United Nations and its various institutions, particularly the Security Council, which became a flexible tool for the achievement of America's selfish goals in a way which ridicules the will of the international community which aspires for a world dominated by peace, justice, equality and stability.

The speech by the American President was considered a real reflection of America's wild desire to tighten its grip over international institutions and to falsify the will of the international community and international legitimacy.

The America President's selection of the UN General Assembly as a venue to demonstrate the pre-meditated American intentions constitute a further form of America's flouting and impairing of the will of the international community in the attendance of all the presidents of the world, which reflects clearly the imbalances currently witnessed throughout the world due to the domination of double standards, which made the United Nations lose its credibility and esteem among nations.

The observers noted that the American President repeated the use of the obsolete American cards which are now known to the whole world, such as his speech on what he described as terrorism, at a time when the nations of the world are convinced that America is the first terrorist country in the world and is using producing weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear, biological and chemical weapons and is still following aggressive policies in Panama, Nicaragua, Grenada, Lebanon, Somalia, Vietnam, the Great Jamahariyah, and Yugoslavia in a way which provides a vivid testimony of ongoing American terrorism against the nations of the world.

American subversive acts and vicious crimes are still being committed by the CIA which includes assassina-

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tions of presidents of states and the production of fatal viruses like the AIDS virus which is being spread over the whole world - this proves that America has become the world's den of terrorism which turns the world into a jungle, following the terror, panic, aggression and threats of American aggression against smaller nations that do not feel assured about their future and have lost the feeling of security, safety and peace in the light of America's ridiculing the legitimacy of the United Nations.

As the nations of the world are now faced with a bizarre situation in the United Nations due to American domination and intransigence, these nations are requested today, more than in any time in history, to rectify this situation, reinstate the United Nations and re-habilitate its institutions against the tyranny of a number of states whose arrogance and tyranny reached the extent of manipulating this international organisation into an instrument for oppression and the imposition of blockades and unfair economic sanctions against the peaceful nations which are aspiring for a peaceful life and security on earth under the sun.

Washington March, Farrakhan Statement Reported

LD2010145895

[FBIS Editorial Report] Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic at 1240 GMT on 20 October carries a five-minute report on the Million Man March in Washington on 16 October. The report notes that Louis Farrakhan's statement that the Nation of Islam movement will engage in politics to become a third political force in America "is the beginning of the end of the monopoly of politics in America, which is dominated by two parties that take advantage of the inattention of the masses and undermine democracy. It is also the beginning of a mass move forward to smash the monopoly of power so that Blacks in America may have weight and power through which they would have a role in the coming American elections."

The report notes that the march comes at a time of rising discrimination against Blacks who are persecuted and neglected.

The report notes that Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi had congratulated Farrakhan on the success of the march and that Farrakhan had said "al-Qadhdhafi was my brother and would remain so."

Editorial Condemns al-Qadhdhafi, Deportations

MS2010144695 Leeds PALESTINE TIMES in English Oct 95 p 12

[Report by Edna Yaghi: "When a Hero Turns Traitor"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Since 1948, it's never been easy to be a Palestinian refugee. For those who have always had permanent homes, it might be difficult to imagine how it feels not to have one. But to be a refugee means not having a real home to call one's own and more important, not belonging to any country.

For Palestinian refugees who lost their land in 1948, their homes and villages were literally wiped off the face of the map and they were forced to flee in all directions. Some went to Lebanon, some Syria and a great number escaped to Jordan. Jordan was the only country that granted a huge number citizenship.

Who knows, however, how much the Palestinian refugees suffered during the early period of their Diaspora. Families thinking they would return to their homes and villages in a few days, took but the barest necessities with them. They slept in caves, out in the open or later, in large rooms that held hundreds of people. They ate only bread if they were lucky and had no choice but to drink any water they could find, usually dirty and polluted. Later, they were herded like cattle into huge makeshift camps where they were faced with the stark reality that no, tomorrow they were not going home and suddenly, there was no means to support themselves and their families. Some, out of bitter desperation and frustration, committed suicide. Others, hoping some kind of miracle would pass their way, waited out the days. Days turned to weeks, weeks to months and months to years until many elderly died, never to see their homes again.

Those with more luck and fortitude were able to find jobs in other places like Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the Gulf countries and Libya. These early Palestinians were the pioneers of the areas they went into. They forged pathways, built cities and established new infrastructures which revolutionized the Middle East. Wherever they went, they improved conditions around them and became the intellectual backbone of the societies they served and lived in.

At times, though, they were hated for their ingenuity, their hard work and their determination. They were treated as if they weren't Arabs and instead of finding the compassion they so desperately needed at first, they faced hostility and were labelled "foreigners." There were few champions for their cause and even some of those who may have initially declared themselves

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sympathetic, later used the Palestinian refugees as a means to gain money for their own pockets.

And then along came the Libyan leader, Colonel Mu'ammar al- Qadhdhafi. For a time, it seemed as if he were the great Arab hero long awaited. He was the brave man who defied Washington during the Reagan era when he boasted that he would rush out in his trusty submarine manned by none other than himself and blow American ships to pieces.

His colours have now changed. Instead of looking like a great Arab hero, he looks more like a sad Arab disgrace. Has he gone mad or has he been mentally incapacitated for some time? He claims his solution to punish Palestinian leaders for making peace with Israelis is for all Arab leaders to expel Palestinians from host countries to Israel to show that the Peace Accord is nothing but a sham. To prove that he is really astute, (in case anyone had a doubt), he is taking the initiative and has already expelled thousands of Palestinians as an example for other leaders to follow. Many more hundreds remain stranded at sea or on the Egyptian-Libyan border. For the past two months, busloads of Palestinians have been taken to Al-sallum border point which is between Egypt and Libya.

As if this is not enough? the Libyan authorities have gathered Palestinians in the eastern port of Benghazi and the capital Tripoli to prepare for further expulsions. PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat spoke of the latest crime against the Palestinians and said, "we appeal to the whole world to halt the crime against 50,000 Palestinians."

Until now, more than 4,000 Palestinians have been shipped to Lebanon over the past several weeks in addition to the several hundred that were sent to the Egyptian border. Of all the Palestinians that have been expelled to Lebanon, only 400 were admitted. The rest were turned back because the Lebanese authorities claimed they did not carry Lebanese travel documents.

Suddenly, after all their years of faithful and dedicated service, Palestinians were uprooted from their jobs and homes and mercilessly cast out of Libya. During the Gulf War, Palestinians suffered immensely. Most lost their jobs, some their lives and many men were either imprisoned or murdered because of the Iraqi invasion of which they had nothing to do. And now yet another tragedy is unfolding in Libya. People who have worked the best years of their lives and spent their time away from their loved ones are now being forcefully expelled. Those who are not allowed into Lebanon, Jordan or Egypt are forced to await their destiny in tent camps. Many of the inhabitants of these emergency camps are women and children who suffer terribly from the intense heat. At the al-Sallum crossing (which is a no man's land) between Libya and Egypt, some 32 Palestinian families have been stranded for more than two weeks after Libya expelled them and Egypt refused them entry. They are exposed to the hot desert sun and half of these Palestinians are children who suffer from lack of food, water and health services.

Though at present he has put a stop to the deportations, it still seems al-Qadhdhafi has turned his back on the Palestinian people. He can no longer be regarded as a great Arab leader or the champion of the downtrodden and homeless. And he certainly hasn't caused any other Arab leader to applaud his inane actions. On the contrary, he has set himself up for ridicule, disgust and outrage.

Refugee camps abound in Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and occupied Palestine. Children have grown up to the smell and danger of overflowing sewage, crowded conditions and poverty because Zionists confiscated the homes, land and country that was rightfully theirs. Old people, waiting to return to their beloved towns and villages have died of broken hearts, never able to see their country again. The new generation has sprung up out of the chaos and despair of Diaspora and the burden of being refugee forced Palestinians to seek new options and work in any Arab country just to be able to support their families and earn a decent living. But the tragedy of the Palestinian people is never ending. They are still persecuted for the crime committed against them and all humanity when they first lost their homes. This crime erupts in different sporadic spots on a continuous basis and they remain to this day, Palestinians in Diaspora and ever vulnerable.

Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi is no longer a great Arab hero who is loved and admired by all, but a despicable Arab traitor who will be loved and admired by none. All his money and power cannot buy him the one most important component which would classify him as a great man and this is a genuine and honest love for all Arab people.

Palestinian Returnees Praise al-Qadhdhafi

LD2310215895 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 23 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian masses who are at the Return Camp in the pseudo border area between the Great Jamahiriyah and the Arab Republic of Egypt issued a political statement at midday today, which said:

In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate; a political statement issued by the Palestinian Arab masses who are returning to the homeland — the land of Palestine — and who are now at the Libyan-Egyptian border area.

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At a time when the imperialist and capitulationist forces, the forces of tyranny, injustice and aggression, swarm around in order to sell our Palestinian issue and our Palestinian Arab people, we stand here among these tents with pride and loftiness and full of resolve and firm will, because we — the vanguard of the Palestinian people who are returning to their land despite their tyranny and might, thus challenging the capitulationists and those who are striking bargains over our issue, and reaffirming to the entire world that we are a living people who will not die no matter how much time passes — we will expose all the plans of those who are lying on their bellies in submission and who are running after the mirage of America and the lies of the Israeli enemy.

Free people of the world: We are asking you to bear witness to the following:

1. We reaffirm and insist on our free choice to return to our land without being coerced, compelled, or pressured to do so by anyone, and that the decision to return is a national Palestinian decision from which we will not retreat.

2. We would like to thank all the the organizations, movements, and authorities which have sent us cables of solidarity, and here we would like to single out the Palestinian organizations and the Arab organization active in Lebanon, the Palestinian community in South America, the Arab community in West Europe, and the peace-loving organizations of freedom and democracy in Europe and America. We would also like to express our thanks to and pride in the leaders of the intifadah in Palestine who have expressed their solidarity with us, and to all our free brothers in occupied Palestine, and to our brothers in the Great Jamahiriyah.

3. Free people of the world: If the United Nations and the relief agencies and the humanitarian organizations cried for us and offered us drops of water and some food, we did not need that as much as we needed a homeland that can give us shelter, where we can feel secure and safe, and where we can enjoy our dignity and manhood, like other peace-loving peoples who thirst and call for democracy the world over. Therefore, their teardrops shed for our sake are the tears of those who harbor hatred toward us and who are gloating over our misfortune, the tears of those who are laughing because they know full well that the road to Palestine does not pass through tears and sentiments but through determination and will which if they cannot implement then we will do so by virtue of our resolve [as heard].

We have extended our calls and appeals and even our prayers to the Security Council and the United Nations so that they will give us their blessings and find a just solution for our issue. But they ignored our cries calling for our return to the homeland. In order to turn a blind eye and a deaf ear to us, they let loose their rotten tongues to slander us and slander our free patriotic honorable action. They transformed it from a patriotic action into a Libyan action in order to wreck our cause and transform our program of struggle into a program that serves the aims of imperialism and Israel, to show us as terrorists who reject peace, and to harm the Great Jamahiriyah.

4. Despite that, we followed with Abu-'Ammar the signing of all the so-called peace agreements from Madrid to Oslo, Tabah, Cairo, and Washington and we believed, just as 4 million Palestinians living in the diaspora did, that our problem was solved. Thus, we became determined to travel to our homeland; however, we regrettably faced the reality and the lie which they call peace and found out that it is a mere submission and a humiliation of our dignity and the sacrifices of our Palestinian people.

5. Let the whole world hear us and let all the people see that we should have made this return which we have chosen since 16 May 1948, not today. We are very late and we are returning today to Palestine with this national feeling which we have carried deep inside us and which was revived in us by Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, the leader of the Arab nation, the custodian of pan- Arabism and Arab unity, and the custodian of the Palestinian cause and the Palestinian people. On this occasion, while we are determined to return, we express to him our best feelings of love, consideration, thanks, and gratitude for all the things he has given to us, our people and our cause.

We thank our brothers the masses of the Basic People's Congresses for everything they gave us during all the time we have spent in the Jamahiriyah.

We say to the leader of victory and defiance: We promise you, O leader, that we will not betray you, we will not change our promise, and we will not abandon the principles because we will keep the pledge as long as we are alive. Let us go forward, and O you our masses of our Palestinian people and Palestine, the sons of Arab Palestine, Jerusalem, Muslims, and free people of the world, we the avant-garde of the revolutionaries returning to their homeland will meet with you in Palestine, God willing.

Mauritania

Coup Rumors Lead to Arrests; Iraq Said Involved

AB2310214195 Libreville Africa No. 1 in French 1830 GMT 23 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Mauritanian head of state, President Maaouya Ould Sid Ahmed Taya, has proba-

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bly escaped a coup attempt. Persistent rumors have been circulating in Mauritania, and they have been substantiated by a wave of arrests in Arab nationalist circles in the past days. Rumors point to Saddam Husayn's Iraqi regime, which reportedly commandeered this attempted coup. From Nouakchott, Salem Mechbour Salem has the details:

[Begin Salem recording] Among the officials arrested are several high ranking officials of the Mauritanian State, and these even include advisers at the presidency. Some officials from the public service were arrested at their offices at around 1000 this morning. According to various sources contacted by Africa No. 1, it is said that the officials who were arrested belong to the Arab nationalist movement, the Ba'ath Movement, which is in power in Baghdad, Iraq.

However, there are no more official details on the reasons behind the arrests within the Arab nationalist circles. The arrests were made just a few days before President Taya's visit to Jordan where, a few months ago, the cousin and son-in-law of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, took refuge. The shadow of Baghdad seems to be covering current events in Mauritania. The Iraqi ambassador to Mauritania is said to have been expelled this afternoon from Nouakchott where he was declared persona non grata. The information is yet to be confirmed.

In any case, the Mauritanian minister of interior is expected to make a statement tonight. People generally believe that since the interior minister is the head of the police, if he makes his statement, this will mean that the affair is connected to the external and internal security of the state. [end recording]

Iraqi Envoy Expelled Due to 'Secret Missions'

LD2310?21395 Nouakchott ORTM Radio in Arabic 1900 G.. T 23 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] This afternoon, Iraqi Ambassador in Nouakchott Anwar Mawlud Dhubyan was summoned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, where he was told that he is a persona non-grata. He was asked to leave the national soil within the next 72 hours. In this connection, Mohamed Lemine Salem Ould Dah, minister of the Interior, Post, and Telecommunication, made the following statement to the national press:

[Begin Ould Dah recording] In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate. Recently it has been noticed the number of secret missions arriving in our country from Iraq has been increasing. Through observation and monitoring the activities of these missions, it became apparent that they had specific aims, which were manifested in establishing and organizing or staffing secret organizations in our country directly linked to officials of the Iraqi regime, and receiving from them generous funds. Orders were also issued to these organizations directly from those officials. These organizations, acting on instructions from those officials, collected information and communicated the latter to their masters; this information related to the strategic places in the state. Recently, instructions were issued to these organizations which were so dangerous that some of the youth who were active in these secret organizations could no longer tolerate what they were instructed to do, and therefore they contacted the official departments in the state and informed them of extremely serious information which is connected with sensitive security establishments and centers. Therefore, the state found itself compelled to act to take whatever measures necessary for protecting security and stability and to open an investigation in order to complete the necessary information relating to this subject.

Peace and God's blessing and mercy be upon you. [end recording]

Morocco

Rabat Urges UN To End Sahrawis' 'Sufferings'

LD2010153995 Rabat MAP in English 1456 GMT 20 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Geneva, Oct. 20 (MAP) — Morocco called the UN High Commissioner for Refugees [UN High Commissioner for Refugees] to pay heed to the situation of sequestered Sahrawis in the Tindouf camps (south-western Algeria).

The call was made Wednesday [18 October] in Geneva by Moroccan Ambassador to UN in Geneva Nacer Benjeloun-Touimi during the 46th session of the UNHCR executive committee convening at the Swiss capital since Monday.

After renewing Morocco's attachment to the UN Security Council plan for the settlement of the Sahara issue, the Moroccan diplomat called the UNHCR to act to end the sufferings of sequestered Sahrawis and enable them to freely return to their homeland, Morocco.

The Moroccan ambassador denounced the mercenaries tactics and the obstacles they erect to hinder the UN settlement plan. He also deplored the situation prevailing in the sequestration camps and recalled the defections of several former 'Polisario' [Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Oro] leaders to Morocco in response to the call launched by King Hassan II that 'the homeland is merciful and forgiving'.

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Sudan

Official on Free Elections, Political System

EA2310221195 Khartoum SUNA in English
1711 GMT 23 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Khartoum, 23 Oct (SUNA) — [The] secretary of the National Congress Secretariat, al-Shafi Ahmad Muhammad has explained that the election of the president of the Republic scheduled for next year will be free elections contested by a number of candidates. Interviewed by the French news agency, AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE (AFP) Muhammad affirmed that the people's congresses [as received] system is the best for ensuring participation of citizens in government. Meanwhile, Muhammad reviewed [the] structure of the political system at all levels.

Responding to a question on whether [ex-President] al-Sadiq al-Mahdi can nominate himself in the election of the president of the Republic, Muhammad stated [that] previous political affiliations will not prevent any citizen to [as received] compete in the elections for the president of the Republic, adding that nomination conditions will shortly be announced.

Meanwhile, the secretary of the National Congress Secretariat said that the secretariat welcomes the coming dialogue between the Palestinian Liberation Organization and Hamas movement in Sudan, hoping that the Palestinian dialogue will be a step forward for [the] achievement of Arab unity.

Deputy Foreign Minister, Iranian Envoy View Ties

LD2310114695 Tehran IRNA in English
0926 GMT 23 oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct. 23, IRNA — Sudanese Deputy Foreign Minister Avaz Ebrahim Fadhlallah, in a meeting Sunday [22 October] with Iranian Ambassador to Sudan Mehdi Marvi, expressed hope that the bilateral joint commission, which is due to be held soon in Tehran, bears fruitful results for both countries.

He underscored that the Sudanese Foreign Ministry spared no effort to help further promote mutual relations.

Referring to the sound ties between Tehran and Khartoum, Marvi announced Iran's readiness to upgrade bilateral economic and cultural cooperation.

He also made reference to the Islamic Republic's participation in the 13th Khartoum international fair, that is due to be held in the beginning of 1996, as an important step in expanding mutual economic ties.

Opposition Figure Urges 'Boycott' of Regime

NC2310213395 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1220 GMT 23 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 23 Oct (MENA)—Muhammad al-Mu'tasim, official in charge of information in the Sudanese Democratic Unionist Party in Cairo, has stressed that the Sudanese opposition has succeeded through careful penetration of the establishments of the Islamic Front government to uncover the addresses, names, and nationalities of foreign terrorists in Sudan. In an exclusive statement to MENA, he said Sudanese opposition in Cairo has documents that give the addresses of these terrorists, of whom there are estimated to be more than 500. He stressed that their movements have been regularly monitored by opposition elements inside Sudan. He added that the opposition also discovered plans for unifying the African and Arab armed men in Khartoum. They are being trained by Iranians and Iraqis and funds are channeled to Sudan through the Arab Islamic Popular Congress headed by Hasan al-Turabi, who offers arms, land, and housing to international fundamentalist groups in complete coordination with Sudanese military intelligence and security agencies.

Al-Mu'tasim noted that Arab personalities and Arab and Islamic establishments are engaged in preaching, relief work, and collecting money to finance the terrorist groups in Sudan. He said Sudanese embassies abroad and the offices of Sudanese airlines abroad also help terrorists. Regarding the unification of African armed men, al-Mu'tasim pointed out that a joint leadership has been formed for the Eritrean al-Jihad organization and the mujahidin of the Ethiopian tribe of Oromo in joint camps in the Dim Mansur area, southeast of al-Karmal on the Ethiopian border. Another joint force was formed near Kassala that includes some militiamen from the Islamic Front, the Jihad, and the Oromo tribe. He said this force consists of approximately 6,000 fighters who are trained by Iraqi experts who arrived in Sudan in early July after the attempt on President Husni Mubarak. These fighters seek to stir up sedition and fighting against both Eritrea and Ethiopia. Terrorists are exported through the strategic bureau of the People's Congress. He pointed out that unifying these terrorists under one leadership confirms that Hasan al-Turabi's ambitions in the region will not stop at destabilizing security in other countries by individuals who do not belong to these countries. He noted that this is a serious issue because armed men of various nationalities may strike in any country. This confirms that Sudan is still planning for terrorist operations targeting African countries.

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Al-Mu'tasim said the Sudanese opposition revealed that there are airport engineering experts from Iraq working in the Red Sea mountains. They are modernizing an old airfield in a mountainous area in east Sudan near Port Sudan. This airfield had been used to hide aircraft during World War II. He noted that the engineers include missile experts from Iraq, Iran, and other foreign countries. He noted that the presence of these experts on the Red Sea coast clearly indicates that there are plans for naval and air operations targeting all Red Sea littoral countries. He said the Iranian Government offers technical aid and experts in air defense and naval operations in Port Sudan.

Al-Mu'tasim stressed that the Arab fundamentalist movement in Sudan has become public and operates inside quarters and that its membership is increasing. He noted that previously this movement was hiding on farms outside Khartoum.

On the Sudanese opposition's discovery of the homes of the fundamentalists in Khartoum, Khartoum North, and Omdurman, al-Mu'tasim noted that the opposition monitored 38 homes in various parts of Khartoum, where Arabs, mostly Egyptian extremists returning from Afghanistan, Palestinian Hamas movement members, and fundamentalists from Algeria and Morocco live. All these individuals have Sudanese citizenship and travel documents.

Al-Mu'tasim said that the information available to the Sudanese opposition about terrorists in Sudan confirm that the opposition is cohesive and can easily penetrate the fragile al-Bashir-al-Turabi regime. This information also confirms that the Sudanese people are reorganizing themselves to launch an all-out uprising throughout towns and villages in Sudan.

On behalf of the Sudanese opposition, al-Mu'tasim called on countries and organizations worldwide to call the Khartoum regime to account through the Security Council. He said that the Mediterranean countries must agree on a clear strategy to enhance their solidarity and fight terrorism to safeguard the region from plans against their security. He said the Arab countries must take a clear position toward the Khartoum regime to confront the spread of subversive terrorist ideas. The Arab and African political forces must cooperate to confront terrorism in Sudan and support the opposition so that democracy can be restored to Sudan and security to the region. He called on all countries to declare their boycott of the Sudanese regime, stop trade and arms sales, and to besiege this regime.

Nine Political Prisoners Released From Prison

AB2210173695 Paris AFP in English
1612 GMT 22 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Khartoum, 22 Oct (AFP) — Nine political prisoners have been freed from a prison in western Sudan, where they were serving jail terms of between five and 10 years, the independent daily AL-RAI AL-AKHAR reported Sunday [22 October].

Quoting a former prisoner, Abbaker al-Tom Adam, the newspaper said the nine — who were sentenced in April — left the prison in Niala under a presidential decree promulgated in August ordering the release of political prisoners.

"My happiness will not be complete until the other prisoners held in southern Sudan are freed," he told the newspaper. The report gave no further details.

In late August, Sudanese authorities announced the release of 32 political prisoners, including former Prime Minister al-Sadiq al- Mahdi who was imprisoned without trial, and 18 others who were jailed after a failed coup d'etat against President 'Umar al-Bashir in 1991. In addition, 37 soldiers were also freed. At the time, the Khartoum government said there were no more political prisoners in Sudanese prisons, a claim disputed by international human rights organisations.

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Gulf States Plan for Gas Distribution Network

NC2010143795 Paris AFP in English
1403 GMT 20 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Muscat, Oct 20 (AFP)—Gulf Arab states are pursuing plans to set up the region's first joint gas distribution network to tap their enormous reserves amid steady growth in domestic consumption, officials said on Friday [20 October].

The Gulf Organisation for Industrial Consulting (GOIC), the think-tank for non-oil industrial policies in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), is carrying out a feasibility study of the project that will cover the six Gulf members, GOIC secretary general, 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Ja'fari said.

"The GOIC is still studying the project to build a common GCC gas distribution network, which is one of the most important projects in the region," al-Ja'fari told the official Omani news agency in Muscat.

The GOIC has finalised a preliminary study to determine the project's costs, which would be shared proportionately among members, he said.

The project includes building pipelines from Qatar, the third biggest gas power in the world after Russia and Iran, with estimated reserves of around 7.1 trillion cubic metres (236.6 trillion cubic feet).

The network would link Qatar with Kuwait through Bahrain and Saudi Arabia, while another pipeline would travel through Oman to Dubai.

Apart from Qatar and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), gas reserves in the other GCC members are mostly linked to oil, making their separation a costly process.

Experts said the Qatari gas would cut costs of gas production in those countries, mainly Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

GCC oil ministers discussed the project early this year and asked the Doha-based GOIC to continue its study. [passage omitted]

GCC Chiefs of General Staff Discuss Coordination

LD2310100895 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic
0611 GMT 23 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Riyadh, 23 Oct (KUNA) — The Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] chiefs of general staff are coming to the end of their 13th session during which they have been examining coordination between member states in the military field.

Informed sources have told KUNA that the conferees ended talks yesterday on the coordination of training between their countries' forces and that they will be examining the project codenamed "Cooperation Belt" which aims at coordinating the early warning systems and other military activities devised for the protection of GCC member states' security. The same sources indicated that later today the chiefs of staffs will be examining their system of coded communications.

The chairman of the session the Bahraini Chief of Staff, General Abdallah bin-Salman Al Khalifah, indicated yesterday that the military officials had examined the improvement of the "Peninsula Shield." [passage omitted]

Kuwaiti Major General 'Ali Mu'min, reiterated in a statement published in Kuwait today the full understanding between GCC member states as far as their military cooperation and coordination were concerned.

He added, in a statement published in the Kuwaiti daily AL-ANBA at the end of yesterday's meeting, that there was a strong desire and great determination to boost the GCC member states' individual and joint military potential in such a way that would render them good enough to face up to any future threat to any GCC member state.

'Ali Mu'min indicated that the chiefs of staff in yesterday's talks examined a number of topics on their agenda and pondered suitable solutions in an atmosphere of full understanding.

He also reiterated that there was an understanding on the need to boost the forces of the "Peninsula Shield" and increase the number of its military personal to 25,000. [passage omitted]

Bahrain

U.S. Military Planes To Stay Until End of Year

JN2310152795 Manama WAKH in Arabic
1425 GMT 23 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Manama, 23 Oct (WAKH)—A responsible source at the Bahraini Foreign Ministry said that Bahrain received a U.S. request to deploy one squadron of U.S. military aircraft on Bahraini territory. Bahrain agreed that these aircraft will stay in Bahrain until 31 December 1995, he added.

In a statement to WAKH, the source said consultations were held among Bahrain, the United States, and fraternal states in the region on these arrangements in view of the fact that a U.S. aircraft carrier has left the Gulf region.

The source added that both friendly countries have a joint defense cooperation agreement.

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Saudi Mediation Welcomed on Qatar Border Issue

LD2310201495 Riyadh SPA in English
1926 GMT 23 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Manama, Oct 23, SPA — A senior Bahraini official welcomed the mediation efforts being made by custodian of the two holy mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz to find an amicable settlement for the borders dispute between Bahrain and Qatar.

The Bahraini Minister for Cabinet Affairs and Information Muhammad Ibrahim al-Mutawwa' who made the remarks in a statement published today by AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ newspaper also expressed confidence that the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] leaders, who decided during their last summit in Manama to settle borders disputes, will settle such differences in their framework of their constant efforts to establish peace, stability and prosperity in the entire region.

Kuwait

Government, Iraq Meet on 'Missing' People

NC2310193795 Paris AFP in English
1844 GMT 23 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Kuwait City, Oct 23 (AFP)—Kuwait and Iraq are to meet Tuesday [24 October] to discuss the fate of 605 people Kuwait says went missing during the 1990-1991 Iraqi occupation of the emirate, a Kuwaiti official said Monday.

Du'ayj al-'Anzi, who chairs a committee on the missing and prisoners of war, told AFP that the two countries would hold their third meeting on the issue under the auspices of the International Committee of the Red Cross in the demilitarised zone along their border.

"Iraq has so far given incomplete information on the 123 people it captured during its invasion of Kuwait and took to Iraq, and who it says it lost trace of after the uprising" in the north and south of the country after the January-February 1991 Gulf War, al-'Anzi said.

He said Iraq recently handed the Kuwaiti authorities the body of a Kuwaiti man and that DNA tests were underway to determine his identity. [passage omitted]

Minister on UAE's Call for Ending Iraq Embargo

NC2310155095 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1325 GMT 23 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 23 Oct (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid met in his office today with Jasim al-'Awn, Kuwaiti minister of electricity, water, and communications. Al-'Awn is currently in Cairo to attend the meetings of the Executive Bureau of the Arab transport ministers, which will open on 24 October at the Arab League General Secretariat.

Al-'Awn said after the meeting that the discussions dealt with the suffering of the Iraqi people and Kuwait's position on this issue.

He said: We in Kuwait, at both official and popular levels, share the same sentiments as everyone — especially as recently expressed by Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates [UAE] — regarding the suffering of the Iraqi people and Arab reconciliation.

But the minister blamed the Iraqi regime for this suffering, especially as it intransigently fails to implement the Security Council resolutions.

Further, he said his country's position regarding the suffering of the Iraqi people was very clear, as Kuwait has put its solidarity with the Iraqis into practice. He noted that Kuwait was the first Arab country to deliver aid to the Iraqi people.

He said the aid, which includes food and medicine, actually reaches the Iraqi people through the International Committee of the Red Cross and other humanitarian organizations. He stressed that this aid has reached and will continue to reach the Iraqi people despite what happened to the Kuwaitis during the Iraqi invasion.

Al-'Awn said his country always distinguishes between the Iraqi people and the Iraqi regime. He said all efforts and appeals should be directed at the Iraqi regime to drive it to implement the Security Council resolutions so that the suffering of the Iraqi people can end.

Asked what impact Shaykh Zayid's call for Arab reconciliation left on official and popular Kuwaiti circles, the Kuwaiti minister said: Shaykh Zayid enjoys special love in Kuwait and special appreciation in the Gulf. No one can doubt the sincere intention of Shaykh Zayid when he calls for removing injustice against the Iraqi people.

On Kuwait's views concerning Arab reconciliation, Minister al-'Awn said Kuwait supports Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid's statement that the reconciliation must be preceded by frankness.

New High Quality Oil Deposit Discovered in West

LD2110174495 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic
1427 GMT 21 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] New York, 21 Oct (KUNA) — The Kuwaiti Oil Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Muhsin al-Mid'aj announced here today that a new high quality oil deposit had been discovered in the Kira' al-Maru, in western Kuwait.

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In this context, al-Mid'aj said: Outflow from the Kuwait Oil Company's new oil discovery — the exploratory well Kira' al-Maru No. [word indistinct], started on 19 October 1995 in the area mentioned above. The outflow is of light oil of international oil density, which is [word indistinct] 49 density. This is the first time that oil has been discovered in the area, which has opened new prospects there.

He said that the Kuwait Oil Company's exploration in the area began in June 1990 before the treacherous Iraqi invasion. It was stopped during the invasion and resumed in February 1994 to look for new locations to [word indistinct] and augment Kuwait's reserves of high density light oil. [passage omitted]

He said that the Kuwait Oil Company was continuing its operations by conducting the required tests in the well in order to obtain as much information as possible on the productivity of the well, and determine the dimensions of the new locations. [passage omitted]

He added that preliminary estimates indicated that oil deposits in the locations were between 300-350 billion barrels. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

Political Motive Ruled Out in Mosque Bomb Attack

LD2310112495 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0924 GMT 23 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Riyadh 23 Oct (KUNA) — The Saudi security services are continuing their search for the person who threw explosive charges at worshipers at a mosque in the village of al-Qawba' in southern Saudi Arabia last Friday [20 October].

The acting governor of the town of Bishah, 'Abdallah Al Zulfah said, in a telephone interview with KUNA today, that the motives of the attacker who is 'Abdallah Muhamad Sa'd al-'Amiri were criminal and personal and in no way political.

The acting governor indicated that the number of dead has risen to seven following the death of a seventh victim, a man who died from his injuries. Of the 50 people who are still in the hospital, three are in intensive care but the rest only sustained minor injuries and are in stable condition. [passage omitted]

The Saudi daily UKAZ, quoting eyewitnesses, reported that the attack was odious and totally unexpected.

An eyewitness said that as the worshipers were sitting down and just about to end their prayers, the blast shook the mosque. Worshipers panicked and started running about in a disorderly manner trying to get out of the mosque.

Another eyewitness indicated that he saw the attacker as he took something out of his pocket and threw it at the worshipers. He said that he ran after him and tried to catch him but the perpetrator pushed him away and ran off.

As far as the make of explosive used in the attack was concerned, UKAZ quoted a police chief in Asir region, Major Mur'i al-Amiri, as saying: It was a powerful Russian bomb.

He added that bomb disposal experts are currently analyzing fragments from the explosion to determine the size and the power of the bomb. It is still unclear, however, how the attacker got the bomb. [passage omitted]

Prince Sultan Speaks at UN Session

LD2310231995 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 2107 GMT 23 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Dear viewers, we move on now to the UN headquarters in New York for a live relay of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's address which will be read out on behalf of the custodian of the two holy mosques by His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and inspector general. Over to New York:

[Sultan] In the Name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate. Mr. President, heads of delegations, honorable audience: God's peace and blessings be upon you. It is my pleasure, on behalf of the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, to extend my congratulations to your excellency on the occasion of your election as president of the current session of the General Assembly which coincides with the 50th anniversary of the creation of the United Nations. This gives a special importance to this session and makes your election to preside over it as a distinguished consideration of your country. I also want to praise the efforts exerted by his excellency the secretary general for the sake of peace. [passage omitted]

Mr. President: My country represents the heart of the Islamic world since it is the source of Islam which holds peace atop its noble values and rejects violence and terrorism.

From this premise, King Fahd is exerting all his efforts for the kingdom to continue shouldering its responsibilities toward the peace issues.

Mr. President: My country has achieved an ambitious development and made a positive contribution in working toward achieving a better world. The best example

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of this is my country's balanced oil policy and its foreign aid program which amounted, during the last two decades, to $70.6 billion. Seventy-two developing countries have benefited from this aid.

Mr. President: My country believes in the continuous endeavors for the realization of the aims of this organization. The Security Council resolutions taken following the unjust Iraqi aggression on Kuwait had a deep impact, for these consolidated confidence in the essential role played by the United Nations in supporting countries whose sovereignty is being harmed. Kuwait has regained its right to existence and sovereignty.

It must be stressed that the kingdom attaches extreme importance to the safety and unity of the Iraqi territories. However, it holds the Iraqi regime responsible for the suffering faced by the brotherly Iraqi people. In order to have this suffering lifted, the Iraqi regime must implement all the Security Council resolutions including the release of prisoners [of war].

The international cooperation to reactivate the Middle East process has come to fruition since the Madrid conference, despite the fact that this process has not reached its final goal. The opportunity is still there to give it a push particularly on the Syrian and Lebanese track, on condition that the foundations of this process are adhered to, particularly Resolutions 242, 338, and 425 in connection with the Israeli withdrawal from the Arab occupied territories, and Resolution 252 in connection with Holy Jerusalem, this city which has a special position in the hearts of every Muslim. In order to have the aspired peace based on trust, the Middle East must be free from weapons of mass destruction.

Mr. President: The Serb aggression endured by the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina required firm confrontation after the aggressor had rejected the international calls at the time when the Bosnians were denied the right to obtain what they needed to defend themselves. The international response under the leadership of the United States and NATO was a suitable response, despite its delay.

This tragedy has highlighted the need for the United Nations not only to be a relief organization only; it should return to its role in achieving peace based on justice and equality. It should not content itself with managing crises, but prevent them from happening. The delay in its reaction has made the United Nations squander its potentials on failure, not on success, and on death, not on life.

Mr. President: The United Nations' capability throughout the past 50 years, and its constructive role in mobilizing international cooperation make us more determined to support it in order to continue performing its message, especially today as it is facing a crossroads where its future will be determined. [passage omitted]

At Ta'if Province 'Total Security' Implemented

LD2310143995 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1002 GMT 23 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] At Ta'if, 23 Oct (SPA) — Total Security arrangements, approved by His Royal Highness Prince Nayif Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the minister of interior, after proving to be effective in other parts of the kingdom, will be introduced tomorrow, 24 October, in the province of At Ta'if.

Acting governor of the province, Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Bin-Mu'ammar, indicated that such a step falls within the framework of the state's great desire to provide tranquillity for its citizens and security for the country.

The acting governor of At Ta'if Province has noted the important role citizens can play in implementing total security in the province. He indicated, however, that such a step is being taken to harmonize the security services' efforts to maintain the security enjoyed by our dear country.

United Arab Emirates

Government To Send Humanitarian Aid to Iraq

MM2410123595 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 24 Oct 95 pp 1, 4

[Report by Tajj-al-Din 'Abd-al-Haqq and Muhammad al-Dumyan: "Emirates Preparing To Send Humanitarian Aid to Iraq"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Abu Dhabi, Kuwait — Informed sources in Abu Dhabi have revealed that the United Arab Emirates [UAE] is preparing to send humanitarian aid to Iraq. And that the Foreign Ministry will coordinate the delivery of this aid with special permission from the United Nations. The sources believe that this development falls within the framework of Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan's call for lifting the sanctions on Iraq and for Arab reconciliation.

This development also assumes a deeper significance in the light of what a Kuwaiti official said yesterday, namely that Shaykh Zayid's call and other Gulf calls are currently being thoroughly studied by the Kuwaiti Government to crystallize a position to be referred to the Gulf summit scheduled to be held in Muscat before the end of the year.

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The Kuwaiti official, who asked to remain anonymous, said that his country is seriously considering the question of looking into restoring relations with "hostile states" [states that supported Iraq at the time of the invasion of Kuwait] in the light of the positions adopted by these states in support of Kuwait's rights, especially persuading the Iraqi regime to implement all the relevant international resolutions.

The Kuwaiti official cited statements made recently by Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, speaker of the Yemeni House of Representatives. He said: We welcome these statements and hope that the parliaments and governments of the other states that supported the Iraqi regime will follow in the footsteps of the Yemeni parliament speaker and openly announce their support for Kuwaiti rights.

Shaykh al-Ahmar had said that "Kuwait is a dear part of the region, and Iraq's occupation of Kuwait was an evil and aggressive action against everyone; it is an unforgivable crime."

In Abu Dhabi, sources said that the aid in question will assume a popular nature through charity and welfare organizations. This aid will be the first step to translate into action Shaykh Zayid's call for working to help the Iraqi people and to lift the blockade imposed on them.

The UAE yesterday secured support for Shaykh Zayid from French Defense Minister Charles Millon, who made a brief visit yesterday to the UAE, where he met with Shaykh Zayid. Millon said that France shares the UAE's feelings vis-a-vis the Iraqi people's suffering.

Yemen

Vice President Receives Iraqi Foreign Minister

JN2010142795 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 20 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Brother Staff Major General 'Abd-Rabbuh Mansur Hadi, the vice president and head of our country's delegation to the 11th Nonaligned Movement summit, today received Iraqi Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf at his place of residence in Cartagena.

The two officials discussed brotherly ties between the two fraternal countries.

The brother vice president stressed the need to lift the embargo and put an end to the suffering of the Iraqi people. [passage omitted]

Vice President Meets Various Leaders at UN

Confers With UN Chief

JN2210181895 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 22 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Vice President Major General 'Abd-Rabbuh Mansur Hadi, who is visiting New York to attend the UN 50th anniversary festivities, met with UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus-Ghali, who welcomed the vice president and his participation in the UN 50th anniversary festivities. He then thanked Lieutenant General President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih for inviting him to visit Yemen during a telephone call, and he promised to make the visit as soon as possible.

For his part, the vice president conveyed the greetings of the brother president to the UN secretary general [words indistinct] and thanked him for supporting our country in various areas.

During the meeting they discussed regional issues, particularly the situation in Somalia; the burdens our country is bearing as a result of the influx of the Somali refugees; and the need for cooperation between our country and the United Nations to find a solution to that tragedy. They also discussed several issues regarding the Middle East. The meeting was attended by Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Muhammad Talab al-Safa, plenipotentiary minister at the Foreign Ministry; and a number of officials at the UN General Secretariat.

The vice president arrived in new York after attending the Nonaligned Movement summit in Colombia.

Meets Saudi Defense Minister

JN2310084695 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 23 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Brother Staff Major General 'Abd-Rabbuh Mansur Hadi, vice president, met with Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister and minister of defense and Aviation in Saudi Arabia, on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly meeting to mark the UN 50th anniversary.

Discussions dealt with bilateral relations and the progress in the meetings of the Yemeni-Saudi joint committees and facilitating their tasks.

The meeting was attended by 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, Saudi foreign minister.

Meanwhile, Hadi will deliver our country's speech at the international celebration of the UN's 50th anniversary in New York which is attended by leaders, prime ministers,

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and foreign ministers of most world countries. In the speech, he will discuss a number of international issues, the UN role in achieving security and peace among peoples, in addition to the firm positions of our country on all issues that concern the security and safety of the region and all world countries.

The vice president will meet with a number of leaders of fraternal and friendly countries who are participating in this celebration.

Interior Minister on 'Terrorism,' Crime, Issues

JN2310181395 Paris AL-MUHARRIR in Arabic 23 Oct 95 p 6

[Interview with Interior Minister Husayn Muhammad 'Arab by Wahid Tawalibah in Sanaa; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Tawalibah] What about recent acts of terrorism, and how do you view terrorism and religious extremism?

['Arab] First, I would like to say that anti-Yemen propaganda campaigns alleging that Yemen has camps for terrorists and religious extremists are false, baseless, and illogic. And I am ready to prove that. Through AL-MURARRIR, I say that in my capacity as interior minister, I invite any Yemeni or non-Yemeni who claims the existence of terrorist camps in Yemen to come and name the site. I am ready to go with him personally to prove what I say. Our society, like other societies, suffers from crime. No interior minister can deny or prevent crime in his society. We, however, are trying to limit and even prevent crime. Those who violate the law and become criminals will be treated as criminals and punished.

Therefore, we will never tolerate Yemen being a source of trouble for any state. The brother president made instructions to this effect when he visited the Interior Ministry a short time ago, and this is how we understand our duty. [passage omitted]

[Tawalibah] The possession of arms in Yemen is a source of concern. Do you not have any plan to deal with that problem?

['Arab] The Yemeni people have a large quantity of arms, but crime is not widespread in Yemen, compared to other societies. We also do not have political or organized crimes. Most crimes are motivated by revenge or personal differences. The possession of arms does not annoy us. We, however, are trying to organize this phenomenon by issuing license for that purpose. Licenses will not allow people to carry arms and wander about. What concerns us more is shooting on different occasions. We are trying to act against this phenomenon by taking away arms from anybody firing shots and referring him to prosecution.

[Tawalibah] A shooting occurred near the residence of the Iraqi ambassador after midnight several weeks ago. What was the motive?

['Arab] Shooting in Yemen is not widespread. But some members of the diplomatic missions politicize such incidents. A shooting also took place near the U.S. Embassy in Sanaa four months ago. The motive was a difference between some people on a piece of land and it had nothing to do with the embassy or politics at all. [passage omitted]

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Husayn Kamil Identifies 'Spy' at UN

AU2410085995 Hamburg DER SPIEGEL in German 23 Oct 95 p 158

[Unattributed report: "Painstakingly Emptied"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The talk in the royal conference hall, which Jordan's ruler, King Husayn, made available to the UN inspector, was over before it had begun. Rolf Ekeus, who is supposed to destroy the mass destruction weapons of Iraqi dictator Saddam Husayn on the orders of the international organization, wanted to question his main witness — Saddam's son-in-law Husayn Kamil Hasan, the former Iraqi armament chief, who had fled to Amman.

When the prominent asylum-seeker sat down at the conference table he noticed with surprise that he knew the UN envoy's interpreter — as a spy, whom he himself had infiltrated into the organization. Angrily he snapped at him: "Piss off, damn you. You worked for me, and I refuse to make statements in the presence of my own agents."

With this dramatic revelation, what Western military experts have long suspected has been proved for the first time: Iraqi agents always knew beforehand what Ekeus was looking for. This also explains how Saddam managed to conceal the existence of biological weapons from the UN inspectors for a long time.

David Kay, former UN inspector in Iraq, was "not surprised" by the uncovering of the agent. He himself had "repeatedly" discovered "signs of infiltration." The UN inspectors had often turned up for surprise inspections. They absolutely expected to find incriminating material. Nevertheless, Kay says, "we saw that the place had been as painstakingly emptied as if we had been expected."

Ekeus on Credibility of Armament Information

MM2310151195 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 21 Oct 95 p 4

[Interview with Rolf Ekeus, head of the UN Special Commission on the destruction of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction, by Khalil Matar in New York; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Matar] It seems that Iraq is not cooperating with you as it should be. What is the effect of this on the commission's work?

[Ekeus] Iraq is not cooperating with us as it should be. Although Iraq said it would, as it on numerous occasions, the statements reflect continued confusion: Sometimes they say they will cooperate, and at other times they say they will not. They are blowing hot and cold. You should remember that in August they said that they would end their cooperation at the end of the month in question. They are now saying that they will cooperate. Of course, we welcome cooperation.

We are not saying that we do not trust them. But we should wait to see whether they are really going to cooperate. Iraq recently agreed to our demands, namely that it must submit new complete, comprehensive, and final documentation of its armament. They are working on these documents now — which means that we will make a new start in this connection. It also means that Iraq acknowledges that its previous documentation was wrong, as admitted by Lieutenant General 'Amir (al-Rashid), who told me that they had concealed important information — which is an important confession.

At least we have clear information from Iraq that its previous information was wrong. We do not have to mention this through a special report, since Iraq itself is admitting and saying it. They are currently preparing new documents which I expect to reach our offices in November. They are misleading us now, and I mentioned this to the council. Even after the information they submitted in August after Husayn Kamil's defection, they have still submitted erroneous information to us.

[Matar] Do you feel that Iraq offered you only what it thought Husayn Kamil would offer you?

[Ekeus] Yes and no. They told me that the main reason for their decision to provide information was to play down the importance of Husayn Kamil and his information. This might support your statement. But, theoretically, he (Husayn Kamil) has unique information not at the technological level but the administrative level. He is a brilliant administrator. He knows a great deal about the priorities, in whose formulation he took part. He knows a great deal about the resources and the distribution of scientists in all installations. He knows a great deal about all these things. And just as the director of any major company does not know specific details, he too does not know the technological details concerning the concealment of certain information from us. But he knows the bigger picture. There is also Iraq's acknowledgment of many of the questions we raised, such as the missile issue, new capabilities in the chemical sphere, a large number of studies and elements concerning the biological sphere, in addition to other new information.

I believe it is erroneous to attach great importance to talk about the threat facing the region at the strategic level as a result of the Iraqi program. Because the programs in question were set up casually and hastily and did not reach a significant implementation level. We will in the next few weeks see [Iraqi] endeavors to play down

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the importance of the quantities without denying [the existence of] the program completely.

[Matar] But that should not affect the kind of information it should provide.

[Ekeus] The main questions relate to the weapons they admitted they have produced and claimed to have destroyed. These questions will be extremely important to our work, because the states in the region will work very closely to monitor that. There is also the question of Iraq's intentions in all spheres.

[Matar] So you are saying that Iraq is not only misleading the commission but also concealing both information and weapons from it.

[Ekeus] I am not exactly saying that. We have a statement saying that they would cooperate, and they are providing information. We cannot make an immediate assessment because they have indeed misled us. However, if we look at the foreign minister's (Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf) address to the UN General Assembly, we will find that it is an erroneous statement which claims that they do not have weapons, equipment, machines, or banned materials in Iraq — which is wrong, and he must admit that. Because Iraq has admitted to us the existence of these banned materials.

The striking thing is that Tariq 'Aziz sent a letter to the Security Council saying that there are no weapons or weapons parts. What the minister is saying is erroneous. There is a 50-percent belief that there are biological weapons. However, we are not certain, nor can I provide proof. We must ascertain that. And I do not want to directly level [the accusation] with regard to the weapons. But [the production of] some weapons and weapons parts must be continuing. This is in addition to the programs and elements such as installations, research, and studies. 'Aziz did not deny that. He worded it in an intelligent way that reflects a brilliant level of diplomacy. But al-Sahhaf's statement conflicts with what they have admitted, hence providing misleading information.

[Matar] Is that limited to al-Sahhaf out of all Iraqi officials, including Iraqi President Saddam Husayn?

[Ekeus] If al-Sahhaf was intelligent, he should have contented himself with 'Aziz's statement.

[Matar] And does he — 'Aziz, that is — provide you with correct information?

[Ekeus] No. But I am referring specifically to his recent letter to the Security Council.

[Matar] During your visit in August he told you that he was behind the concealment of the information, even though he had asked you before to help him to help you because he is the one urging cooperation with you.

[Ekeus] He did not say that to me only. He said it to both [Russian Federation Foreign Minister] Kozyrev and [French Prime Minister] Juppe. This is why I was angry with him, because he loses his credibility when he utters such lies, which are bound to have an adverse effect. He says that he does not regret it.

[Matar] Has he changed now?

[Ekeus] I do not know. It seems that he is now the regime's chief spokesman. He also seems to be reemphasizing the importance of the Ba'th Party's role.

[Matar] Does that imply any credibility?

[Ekeus] In a meeting with us — attended also by Generals 'Amir al-Rashid and al-Sa'di, in addition to another general, who are the officials dealing with us on the chemical, biological, and missile issues; Gen. 'Amir is the general supervisor — 'Aziz said: Husayn Kamil wanted to get rid of me, and he threatened me. The situation is different with regard to others. No one can harm me, because I am part of the Ba'th Party. But he can harm them (pointing to the three). I am a politician, but they are employees. He had influence over them, but not me. This is not insignificant.

[Matar] How does that explain their statement in August that the decision to suspend dealings [with the commission] at the end of the month in question was made by the Regional Command [of the Ba'th Party] and is therefore irrevocable?

[Ekeus] That too points to the confusion and contradiction. They tried to blame Husayn Kamil for the ultimatum, and they are trying to say whatever is damaging to him. They said that it was Husayn Kamil who called for the moves toward Kuwait. Then they say it is the leadership that makes the decisions.

[Matar] Do they know where they stand?

[Ekeus] I think Tariq 'Aziz knows that the only road is the Security Council and UNSCOM [UN Special Commission]. The only road enabling us to solve the problems passes through them.

[Matar] That is what he told you before Husayn Kamil's defection, when he urged you to help him to help you, saying that he wanted to transcend the ultimatum.

[Ekeus] Yes, it is difficult to understand that.

[Matar] You complained to 'Aziz about the failure of low-level officials to cooperate with you. Has this problem been solved?

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[Ekeus] They said that they submitted specific and direct information from the top to enable officials to cooperate. However, I must admit that it will not be easy to change a policy to which officials have been accustomed, even if instructions are issued from above. There has been over the years a tendency to build a system based on the protection of secrets. Especially as directors of some installations do not know that other installations exist. Thus it is going to be a difficult matter.

For example, imagine that U.S. President Bill Clinton ordered the CIA to open up to and cooperate with the UN secretary general, do you expect the agency to comply despite the presidential decision?

[Matar] Do you really think that that is a logical and correct comparison?

[Ekeus] No, of course. But you know what I mean. There has been for years a high level of secrecy. Officials used to be told that the highest form treason is the revealing of secrets, and they are probably told now that the highest form of treason is cooperation — which is difficult.

[Matar] Are you saying that there are in Iraq low-level officials who do not comply with the president's decision?

[Ekeus] I agree with you. I have suspicions about that. I do not want to appear to be defending the leadership or to name a certain person. But there is a decision affecting thousands of people. You must look at the general situation in Iraq. It is not easy to change the people's mentality over night. Not all of them remember immediately; in fact, when we confront them they all say: Yes, I remember now! That is, they confirm what we already know but they do not offer what they think we do not know.

[Matar] Are you convinced that Saddam has clearly ordered everyone to cooperate?

[Ekeus] No, I am not fully convinced. I have always said that. However, I do not want to say that they are misleading us now.

[Matar] It seems that they have supplied you with information you do not want to reveal.

[Ekeus] Of course, and I do not want to reveal any information before I ascertain and examine it.

[Matar] Especially as some things happened during your work there.

[Ekeus] We indicated that information, but not in a confirmed manner.

[Matar] You talk about it in the same way the Iraqis talk to you, that is, beating about the bush without getting directly to the point.

[Ekeus] (laughing) A major capital contacted me today regarding this issue. I was asked to confirm the matter, but it is associated with certain names, and we do not confirm names.

[Matar] That issue means talking about the commission's credibility. And the Americans want to know about this issue, as they say that, had it not been for Husayn Kamil, they would not have known about many issues.

[Ekeus] We do not agree with that statement. True, the Husayn Kamil affair helped us to some extent. His defection created some tension, and Iraq admitted some things. But it was the inspection system and the quality of our inspectors which uncovered the biological program. And the analysis of the information led to information about the chemical and biological programs. The same applies to the uncovering of the equipment used to manufacture prohibited materials for missiles.

Ma'ruf Conveys Saddam Greetings at UN

JN2310104295 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0910 GMT 23 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] New York, United Nations, 23 Oct (INA) — Vice President Taha Muhyi-al-Din Ma'ruf met yesterday with several heads of state who are in New York to attend the celebrations of the UN 50th anniversary.

During these meetings, the vice president conveyed President Saddam Husayn's greetings to the kings and presidents of Arab and friendly nations.

The vice president told the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY he met with French President Jacques Chirac, PRC President Jiang Zemin, Cuban President Fidel Castro, King Hassan II of Morocco, King Husayn of Jordan, Indian Prime Minister Rao, Sri Lankan President Chandrika Bandaranaike, Sultan of Brunei Hassan Bolkiah, and UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali.

The vice president said his meetings with those leaders were held on the sidelines of yesterday's UN photo opportunity for the heads of delegations taking part in the celebrations.

The vice president is scheduled to hold official meetings with several heads of delegations during his visit to the United Nations.

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Poet to Albright: Your Heart is Black

JN2310170495 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 18 Oct 95 p 7

[Poem by Ghazay Dir'-al-Ta'i: "Albright...Wash Your Mouth"]

[FBIS Translated Text] On this day last year, AL-JUMHURIYAH's "Culture" page published a poem by poet Ghazay Dir' entitled "Albright, the Serpent." Readers may recall that the poem infuriated Mrs. Mad. [name as published] In her first appearance at the United Nations after the poem was published, she put a serpent on her chest. We cannot tell whether this was in compliance with or in protest against the poem. Today, our colleague, poet al-Ta'i marks this occasion with a new poetic production, published hereunder:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate: "And Argue with them in ways that are best and most gracious." [Koran]

In the name of the children who died due to shortage of milk.
In the name of the patient who died due to shortage of medicine.
In the name of the elderly who tasted death on the Baghdad-Amman highway.
And, in the name of man, whom God made master of earth.

I, along with Presidents George Washington, Jefferson, and Abraham Lincoln and poets Alan Ginsburg, Lancaster Hues, and Ezra Pound, stand before your desk in the United Nations and cry in one voice:

Stop aggression against Iraq,
And lift the embargo against it.
Albright
Why? Why?
You say to war: Welcome,
And to peace: Goodbye!
It is not well, it is not well,
Why do you always ring the war bell
And say to peace: Farewell?
People put flowers on their chests,
And you put a serpent.
People work for peace,
And you slap it down.
If you do not work for peace,
If I do not work for peace,
And if others do not either,
All endeavors will fail.
You say the people of Haiti, Somalia, and Bosnia are living happily,
While they are killed by your weapons.
People put decorations on their chests,
And you put on a serpent,
This is your decoration.
Albright
Your heart is black,
But love is white.
The facts are bright.
But you turn off the light,
In the mid of night.
Albright,
You cannot climb the Iraqi palm
Because of its height.
Albright,
All that you say about Iraq
Is not right,
Iraq is not the house of dark,
It is the source of light.
Albright,
Before you speak about Iraq,
wash your mouth.
You still cannot speak properly.
You will not be able to sing the Iraqi rhythmic prose, no matter how hard you try
The toothless can never sing the Iraqi rhythmic prose.
Dialogue.
Albright, We said: A dialogue,
That will keep us free, and keep you free,
That will not disgrace you, and that will not throw us into fire.
Dialogue.
Why do you reject dialogue?
Written on President Jefferson's epitaph were his words, which read in part:
All people were born equal.
God made the mind free.
God gave us freedom.
Law should help the human mind achieve its progress, freedom, and happiness.
And you, what will be written in your epitaph?
If I were to write anything on your tombstone, I would write:
This is the tomb of the biggest sponsor of terrorism,
The biggest sponsor of crime,
The biggest falsifier of democracy, and human rights.
Thanks to her arrogance and haughtiness,
Thousands of children and old people in Iraq
Were sent to tombs.
You buy and sell your democracy with dollars. We establish and entrench our democracy with our hearts.
Albright,
Before you go to your bed,
Remember that many thousands
Of Iraqi children will die
Because of the blockade.

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This is a letter from me to America. I send it through you since you represent this country in the United Nations. O America, who can rid you of your shame? All your democracy and human rights allegations will not conceal your faults. Who are you? A rape gave birth to a crime, and a crime bore another crime, and then a string of crimes followed. Who are you? Walking missiles, ghost planes, smart bombs, and lies....lies...lies. Your crimes against Japan, Korea, Vietnam, Grenada, Panama, Lebanon, Somalia, and Haiti are unforgivable. Your crimes against Iraq have carved a shameful scar on your forehead. Your pens are made of coal and your makeup is made of soot. Your shirts are torn and your buttons are broken because of the battles you fought. Who are you? You have a hat of crimes on your head, a pistol of arrogance on each side, and a pipe filled with other countries' currencies. You are polluting the environment with you poisons, your smoke, and your nuclear reactors. You are distorting democracy when you impose rulers on people. To you democracy is nothing but a lie, and human rights are a mere piece of paper. Your Desert Storm has raged and strangled your soldiers with its sand—your soldiers whom you have abandoned and thrown to the sand and serpents. Fear penetrated their hearts, their nervousness made them kill each other, and so they returned to San Francisco born on the shoulders of agony and haunted by an uncurable disease. Heed the voice of reason, for there is still a chance.

Albright,
Stop your fright,
We want to make peace, not to fight,
Albright, Albright
You should not lift up your head
Until you raise the Iraqi blockade.

You claim that you protect human rights, but you commit the ugliest of senseless aggressions. Foolishness. Can aggression possibly be one of the human rights. Just as we have expelled the English and their followers of Sikhs, Maharathas, and Gurkha from Iraq, We will expel your crows and bats from north and south Iraq.

May God protect us against your venom,
May He rid us of your winds,
May He protect great Iraq.

Saddam Chairs Meeting of Command Council

JN2310173695 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in English 1700 GMT 23 Oct 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] His Excellency President Saddam Husayn chaired a joint meeting for Revolution Command Council and Arab Ba'th Socialist Party Iraq's Regional Command. The meeting dealt with discussing the lessons that can be obtained from the great experience of the general popular referendum.

Members of the Command Council expressed deep appreciation for the firm, patriotic feelings expressed by the people of Iraq through renewing their allegiance to President Saddam Husayn.

'Aziz Stresses People's Support for Saddam

AU2310115395 Hamburg DER SPIEGEL in German 23 Oct 95 pp 162, 164

[Interview with Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz by Dieter Bednarz and Volkhard Windfuhr in Baghdad; date not given: "Fooled"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [DER SPIEGEL] Mr. Deputy Prime Minister, you are President Saddam Husayn's closest adviser. When did you last see the head of state?

['Aziz] Just now. We had a Revolutionary Command Council meeting. Afterward we met again for a private talk. The president makes decisions only when he has thoroughly discussed the matter at hand with his ministers.

[DER SPIEGEL] And where did your meeting take place?

['Aziz] In the president's office, of course. There is no need for him to hide in bunkers. The people love him, and he feels comfortable in his job. I have heard and read so often that Saddam Husayn is isolated and will soon be overthrown. But we are calm and are working normally.

[DER SPIEGEL] Then why is he seen so rarely? In the past he enjoyed working the crowds.

['Aziz] I have known the president for more than 25 years. I have never seen him afraid. He is in an excellent state of mind.

[DER SPIEGEL] After the flight and the betrayal by Husayn Kamil, his son-in-law and long-term armament chief, this seems surprising.

['Aziz] President Saddam Husayn is a man who has extraordinary trust — sometimes even too much trust — in his people. And Husayn Kamil exploited this disgracefully.

[DER SPIEGEL] After Husayn Kamil's defection, the referendum the Sunday before last [15 October] was supposed to prove the unbroken cohesion between president and people. Why did you get this idea only after Saddam Husayn had had 16 years of unrestricted rule?

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['Aziz] First of all, we thought it appropriate to prove to the world that Saddam Husayn is still supported by the people. Second, the referendum is part of our program for the transition from the revolutionary era to a constitutional era. The Gulf war and also the abnormal conditions in the north of our country have delayed our program.

[DER SPIEGEL] Glasnost on the Tigris river?

['Aziz] Yes, there is something like glasnost in our country. It is the first time in the history of Iraq that the citizens have been polled about their head of state. The referendum is only the beginning; other steps, such as new parliamentary elections, will follow.

[DER SPIEGEL] A total of 99.96 percent of approval at the referendum — that is dubious. There was no international monitoring of the referendum.

['Aziz] This would have touched upon our sovereignty. We do not need a label of quality from foreign observers. The only thing that interests me is that the people support our president.

[DER SPIEGEL] Do they really do this, despite the painful embargo?

['Aziz] When everybody realizes that we have a strong, recognized leadership, most of the UN Security Council members will urge the Americans to no longer abuse the embargo. Washington is not interested in having the UN resolutions fulfilled, the United States wants something quite different. It wants to drive a wedge between government and people.

[DER SPIEGEL] UN special envoy Rolf Ekeus, who is responsible for the scrapping of the Iraqi mass destruction weapons, has complained again just recently that he has been tricked — after Husayn Kamil told him about the real scope of the armament program.

['Aziz] It is the same man who first fooled Ekeus for years and then suddenly swamps him with information. Kamil even kept this information from the president.

[DER SPIEGEL] Do you not make things too easy for yourself if you blame everything on Husayn Kamil?

['Aziz] In 1993, we decided to cooperate with the United Nations to get rid of the sanctions. The purposeful disinformation was part of the long prepared conspiracy by Husayn Kamil. The CIA arranged this to destabilize Iraq.

[DER SPIEGEL] Can you give assurances that all biological and chemical weapons have indeed been destroyed and that Iraq is no longer keeping anything from the United Nations?

['Aziz] Yes, this has been ensured.

[DER SPIEGEL] Ekeus is extremely skeptical.

['Aziz] A few days ago I sent a letter to the president of the UN Security Council, stating in writing: All weapons in question have been destroyed. I personally guarantee this.

[DER SPIEGEL] Was the use of these devastating weapons considered in Baghdad during the Gulf War?

['Aziz] Even before the Gulf war our leadership decided: As long as the enemy uses conventional weapons, we will stick to them, too. However, if nuclear weapons had been used against Iraq, our military had the order: Use any weapons you have got, including chemical and biological combat agents.

[DER SPIEGEL] Did you expect the Americans to use nuclear weapons?

['Aziz] This was part of our strategic calculations. That is why we had given special instructions. By the way, we now have our armament apparatus under complete control, and no one will ever again get the special powers, that Husayn Kamil had. We have lost valuable time because of him, but we are convinced that the sanctions will soon be lifted. I hope that Germany, as a member of the UN Security Council, will advocate their being lifted.

[DER SPIEGEL] Bonn will be careful not to contradict the Americans.

['Aziz] All through our history we have had good relations with Germany. German companies did particularly good business in our country.

[DER SPIEGEL] UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali has offered you a partial lifting of the embargo. Why do you not agree to this, in the interest of the famished people?

['Aziz] Because this proposal endangers our country's sovereignty and state unity. The United Nations would distribute $130-150 million, the revenues from the then permitted sale of oil, in the form of relief goods — also among the Kurds. This would confirm the exceptional situation in the north...

[DER SPIEGEL] ...in the so-called Kurdish autonomy area....

['Aziz] Apart from that, it is unacceptable that the major part of our oil is to be pumped through the Turkish pipeline. It is exclusively our own business how we market our oil.

[DER SPIEGEL] How long can the Iraqi people still be expected to bear the embargo?

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['Aziz] At some time during the next year the mood in the UN Security Council will change. Then the sanctions cannot be maintained any longer. In any case, we will continue to cooperate with the United Nations.

[DER SPIEGEL] One of the conditions for ending the embargo is the release of all Kuwaiti prisoners of war. Iraq is reportedly still detaining hundreds of Kuwaitis.

['Aziz] We certainly made mistakes. But why should we detain prisoners of war, since we have recognized Kuwait in its current borders?

[DER SPIEGEL] In an effort to get out of its isolation, Iraq is trying rapprochement with its former war enemy Iran. Is the common enemy, the United States, driving you to close ranks with Iran?

['Aziz] Recently we sent a government delegation to Tehran to show our goodwill. However, the Iranians do not yet have a clear concept for their relations with us. They know that Iran, too, is a victim of U.S. policy.

[DER SPIEGEL] What happens if the UN sanctions are maintained, against your hopes, for an unlimited period?

['Aziz] Then everyday life will become even more unbearable. Even more children will die because we do not have enough pharmaceuticals and food. But the people will not change their attitude and will continue to loyally support their president.

'Izzat Ibrahim Chairs Assembly Elections Committee

JN2310151595 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1405 GMT 23 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 23 Oct (INA)—'Izzat Ibrahim, vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and chairman of the Higher Committee Charged With Supervising National Assembly Elections, today chaired a meeting of the committee to begin preliminary preparations for holding next year's National Assembly elections in accordance with a decree issued by a joint meeting of the RCC and the Iraq Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party.

The conferees also acquainted themselves with the National Assembly Election Law, discussed relevant instructions, made recommendations, and urged an improvement of the administrative aspect in order to facilitate elections and candidacy and to entrench democratic concepts in Iraq.

'Thousands' Attend Referendum Celebration in Amman

JN2110113195 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0930 GMT 21 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Amman, 21 Oct (INA)—Thousands of Iraqis have flocked to the Iraqi Embassy in Jordan to attend the celebration on President Saddam Husayn's victory in the referendum as president of the Republic of Iraq. The celebration was called for by Iraqi Ambassador Nuri Isma'il al-Wayyis.

In an evening full of the scent of Iraq and its great history, thousands of Iraqis sang festive songs and danced. They sang "Victorious, O Baghdad" and "Saddam Husayn Opens the Door to Glory." Thousands of Iraqis came from Amman and other Jordanian cities to declare to the world from sisterly Jordan that they have chosen Saddam Husayn as their president and leader.

In front of the cameras of foreign television networks and correspondents, they said: Yes, yes to Saddam Husayn.

The correspondents and photographers asked with astonishment: Those Iraqis are outside their homeland, in Jordan. What has made them celebrate and what has brought them to their embassy in Amman?

The answer of the Iraqi celebrators was: Saddam Husayn is our leader and beloved president.

They wanted to convey from Amman the message that Saddam Husayn is the leader of Iraq and their president and that all the world's fabrications will not shake their loyalty to their glorious leader. [passage omitted]

Paper Advises West To Accept Referendum Outcome

JN2010121495 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0805 GMT 20 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 20 Oct (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH says that the West has been shocked by the results of the general popular referendum on the post of president held on 15 October, by the organized mechanism used to conduct it, and by the huge turnover of voters at polling centers.

In an article published today, the paper, which speaks for the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, adds: The silence maintained by the official Western agencies in general in the wake of the announcement of the referendum results, which is in stark contrast to the fuss they made prior to 15 October, amounts to an acknowledgement of failure and frustration, and to a recognition of the setback that has plagued them after five years of Western-U.S. aggressive efforts against Iraq and its leader.

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The paper goes on to say: The silence maintained by the United States and its stooges inside and outside the region speaks for itself. As for the Western news media that sent correspondents to Iraq to observe the referendum process, they acknowledged the Iraqis' firm allegiance to His Excellency President Saddam Husayn. Likewise, they recognized Iraq's ability to organize a huge referendum that was marked by a large measure of popular and official discipline in record time.

The paper urges the West to accept the new reality rather than continue with its aggressive efforts, which have proven to be useless, as the referendum outcome has shown. Should it choose to pursue the latter approach, then the West will lose more of its interests, as well as the prospect of maintaining ties with Iraq in any sphere in the future.

AL-THAWRAH Says Country 'Key Player' in Region

JN2210102895 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0740 GMT 22 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 22 Oct (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has said that the Iraqis' cohesion, firm position, and absolute consensus on allegiance to leader Saddam Husayn are the key to the day of victory.

The paper, which speaks for the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, adds: Facts must be addressed. In other words, Iraq is a key player in the region. Moreover, the fact that the Iraqi people have chosen their leader must be acknowledged.

AL-THAWRAH continues: Anyone who follows political events can see that the Iraqis' allegiance to their leader has begun to bring glad tidings. Positions have appeared on the horizon of Arab relations toward restoring Arab solidarity, standing alongside the Iraqi people, and seriously demanding an end to the blockade imposed on them.

The paper points out that the development in the Arab position, based on the Iraqi people's steadfastness and heroic deeds, must lead to development in the international position in support of Iraq as a prelude to lifting the blockade, now that Iraq has fulfilled its commitments in accordance with Security Council Resolution 687.

AL-THAWRAH says that the reports by all foreign correspondents, both friendly and hostile, were unanimous that the Iraqi people had chosen Saddam Husayn in a dignified and serious manner. The paper stresses that although the U.S. officials tried to disregard the landslide Iraqi victory on referendum day, all western diplomats interviewed by the world news agency correspondents asserted that the Iraqis had chosen Saddam Husayn as president of Iraq, that this leader strongly adheres to Iraq's unity and future, and that the Iraqi people view him as a leader for whom there is no substitute. This fact was recently acknowledged by the U.S. newspaper THE WASHINGTON TIMES.

Arab League Urged To Respond to Reconciliation Calls

JN2010132295 Baghdad Mother of Battles Radio in Arabic 1830 GMT 19 Oct 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Good evening Arab brothers: Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates, has called for lifting the embargo on the people of Iraq, regardless of whether the West likes it or not. He said that any Arab who is content with the embargo on the people of Iraq is neither an Arab nor a human being. These statements were followed by statements from Qatar, which welcomed Shaykh Zayid's statements. Moreover, Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid said that Shaykh Zayid's statements express a sincere and true Arab will.

We are not concerned about the angry reaction of the Kuwaiti Government and the feverish contacts between Kuwait's heir apparent and the Saudi king or the like. Negative reactions come from those to whom Shaykh Zayid's statements are addressed. [Words indistinct] deliberate and preplanned genocide war, which the U.S. Administration is launching against our militant people of Iraq for the past six years.

As Arabs, it is important for us to address the Arab League General Secretariat, because it has a duty toward us proceeding from the fact that it is an Arab league. It should be the one to take the initiative of playing an effective role in cases of fragmentation and divisions rather than remaining silent. Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid praised Shaykh Zayid's call and said that it expresses a sincere Arab will.

Hence, we have the right to ask: Is it not the Arab League's duty to consider any sincere Arab initiative, because it could provide an atmosphere for joint and cohesive Arab action? Is this not one of the important reasons for establishing the Arab League?

So far, the Arabs have expressed many desires, the most important of which we can point out. These include the repeated Iraqi initiatives to clear the Arab atmosphere; calls by Iraq, Syria, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, and the amir of Bahrain for an Arab summit; Syria's

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and Egypt's call for achieving Arab reconciliation; as well as such calls by Qatar, Sudan, Yemen, and others. Are these calls not enough to make the Arab League General Secretariat take the initiative before anyone else to take action that affirms the sincere Arab will. For example, the Arab League's secretary general could visit Baghdad or the Arab League could send out invitations to hold an emergency Arab meeting at the highest level in preparation for an Arab summit.

The Arab League should not await the approval of all its members, because such approval could take years. Indeed, there are some who believe that their personal interests and positions dictate that inter-Arab relations remain poisoned and fragmented and that attention should be focused on establishing very cordial relations with the Zionist enemy instead of with his Arab brother.

Arab brothers, we proceed from our concern for the higher Arab interest and in light of our daily follow up of developments, now that the arrows of the enemies, the Zionists, and the Americans have rebounded instead of being aimed at Iraq. This came when millions of Iraqi 'yes' votes shunned and buried the conspiracy, providing the Arabs a good, historic, and valuable opportunity to open horizons of cooperation, solidarity, and victory.

Paper Hails Shaykh Zayid's Initiative on Embargo

JN2310092295 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0710 GMT 23 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 23 Oct (INA) — AL-THAWRAH newspaper commends the initiative launched by Shaykh Zayid Bin Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates, which calls for ending the unfair economic embargo against Iraq and achieving Arab reconciliation to restore balance to Arab ranks.

In an article today, the newspaper, speaking for the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, says Shaykh Zayid's initiative and the Arab response to it would allow the Arabs, including Iraq, to assume new roles and reformulate their brotherly relations to promote their present and future.

AL-THAWRAH adds that Shaykh Zayid's initiative signals an official response to the strong Arab popular calls for ending the crime of the embargo and condemning any involvement in this crime, which is not approved by any honest Arab.

The newspaper calls for a stronger Arab response to the positive calls for ending the crime of the embargo, saying that what is required at present is weakening the position and logic of the people who harbor grudges against Iraq and its people.

In its editorial, the newspaper calls for more initiatives to lift the Iraq embargo and to publicly oppose vindictive positions which seek to maintain the suffering of the Iraqi people and prevent them from fulfilling their pan-Arab and human role in consolidating the will of the Arab nation and building equitable relations among its countries.

AL-THAWRAH demands that all Arabs work to formulate new principles for Arab cooperation that would ensure the protection of their interests. The Arabs should not be influenced by international monopolies or submit to U.S. hegemony, which uses human rights slogans to control people's resources, determine their destiny, and cancel their will.

SAIRI Leader Confirms Badr Forces in North

JN2310214695 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1808 GMT 23 Oct 95

[Interview with Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, chairman of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, by correspondent Salah Salamah; place and date not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-Hakim] We called a long time ago for field action against the [Iraqi] regime in Baghdad. We believe that this field action should begin after preparing the necessary political circumstances on the domestic front in the north and south. That's why the Badr Forces had been present in the northern region since a long time. There are also other fighters who are linked to the Islamic forces which are in the Iraqi arena. We believe that through genuine dialogue between us and all the political forces, including the Kurdish forces, we can bring pressure to bear on the Baghdad regime, particularly at this stage where the regime has lost the support of all the sectors of the Iraqi people—Shiite, Sunni, Arabs, Kurds, Turkmen, and even the political forces which until recently were close to the regime.

[Salamah] Within this framework, have you decided to consolidate your military presence in northern Iraq?

[Al-Hakim] As I said, we enhanced our military presence some time ago. We will further enhance this presence in the future if developments require this.

[Salamah] Your Eminence, Iran is mediating among the disputing Kurdish factions. Have these factions reached a formula on a specific agreement, and do you work with all these factions or with some of them like the Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP] or the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK]?

[Al-Hakim] We have historical and deeply-rooted relations with the brother Kurds. We worked with all parties in all fields. We have good relations with them. We

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held new rounds of talks with them when they visited Tehran. We held talks with each of the disputing parties, the PUK and the KDP. We reached agreement on basic ideas regarding action in the Iraqi arena. As for the dispute between the two Kurdish parties, we urged them two years ago to reach an agreement in stages. We believe this is workable in terms of implementation. The brothers recently adopted this proposal and they agreed among themselves on several points while other points remained to be tackled in the future.

[Salamah] The United States failed to bring about a reconciliation between the disputing Kurdish factions. Does Iran, through this military move, seek to entrench its presence in northern Iraq to replace the United States there?

[Al-Hakim] Our military presence in the Kurdistan region has nothing to do with the dispute. We were present there before the dispute. We reached agreements with the brother Kurds on this issue. We were there even during the dispute. We believe that Iraqi Kurdistan is an Iraqi area and every loyal Iraqi faction has the right to be present in the area. We were not a party to the talks which were held in Dublin or in Tehran. We believe this is the affair of the country which is interested in these talks. As an Iraqi party, we held direct talks with the Kurdish brothers and directly reached agreements with them. I believe this is the sound approach. Perhaps one of the reasons the Dublin talks failed is that other parties which have nothing to do with the dispute got involved. We believe that action within Iraq should be Iraqi action and should basically be carried out by Iraqi parties. This is the viewpoint we have been upholding over the past period. Of course, we take care that the countries in the region support us, countries like Iran, Syria, Turkey, or any other party in the region. This is so because the Iraqi issue now has assumed political dimensions that have an impact on the situation in the region. But, the emphasis remains on the Iraqi will and independent Iraqi action.

KDP Reportedly 'Purged' Areas of PKK's 'Filth'

JN2310215595 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1800 GMT 23 Oct 95

[All placenames as heard]

[FBIS Translated Text] On the dawn of 22 October, operations for purging Khwa kurt and the land of Kurdistan from the PKK [Kurdistan Workers Party] were launched by the Kurdistan Army command and the popular defense forces. The first stage of the operation was concluded successfully and in a record time. Taking part in the first stage were the heroes of the Rasgari corps, the 2d Corps, Barzan Corps, the Sixth Corps, Khwa kurt Corps, and the Special Fifth Corps. The hero popular defense forces supported these units.

On the results of the first stage of purging Khwa kurt, the general command of Kurdistan Army issued the following statement: From the Kurdistan Army command; struggler citizens and the hero peshmerga of Kurdistan: Thanks be to God, the first stage of the Khwa kurt operations was successfully completed thanks to the will of the hero peshmerga of the [Kurdistan Democratic] Party [KDP] and Barzani. A new heroic epic was recorded. In a battle that started at 0500 on 22 October and lasted until 1800 on the same day, Kurdistan heroes carried out the first stage of purging operations with unmatched success. The following areas were purged from the filth of aggressor PKK members: The mountains of Sarisbingara, Rubuh and Rawal mountains, Garuisafin, Qalarasht, Bardabatir, Garuisingar and Karawisk, Sari Zerara, Gardanay Siran, the strategic Jabal Bel, the strategic Jabal Kawayt, more than 50 villages in Bradust, Shaykh Zada, and Shirwani.

The PKK terrorists did not present any significant resistance to the forceful blows of Kurdistan's Peshmerga. The aggressors left behind the bodies of 23 of their dead. Our heroes captured two large food stores, in addition to various equipment. A number of small positions were either destroyed or captured. This epic was recorded thanks to the will and heroism of the Rasgari Corps, the 2d Corps, Barzan Corps, the 6th Corps, Khwa kurt Corps, and the Special 5th Corps. These units were supported by the popular defense forces and the sacrificing masses in the region.

We thank God for this victory. May the hands of the hero peshmerga remain safe. Victory belongs to the people of Kurdistan and death and defeat to the traitors.

[Signed] Kurdistan Army command

[Dated] 23 October, 1995

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Peres Addresses Opening Knesset Session

TA2310165495 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 3 Network in Hebrew 1405 GMT 23 Oct 95

[Address by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres to the opening of the Knesset's winter session — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] Mr. Speaker, honorable Knesset: The Taba agreement is the most important step Israel has taken to make itself into a Jewish state. The Taba agreement is also the most important move to enable the Palestinian people to create a democratic society within a self-government framework. Israel gained moral liberation; the Palestinians have gained the democratic option. Had it not been for that agreement Israel [words indistinct due to heckling] would have continued to be exposed to terrorism, war threats, and growing hostility. The fate of Israel depends on what it does, not less than and sometimes even more than what is done by others.

Some 8 million people currently live between the Mediterranean Sea and the Jordan River: 4.5 million Jews and 3.5 million non-Jews. The proportion and the relations between the two elements will in the long run decide the security and peace of our future life. Those who want to make that entire area into a single political unit called Greater Israel will in the long run have to annex these populations, not only the territories, to Israel since it is inconceivable to keep under a single sovereignty two different national populations when one has full civilian rights, including the right to vote in the Knesset, and the other suffers constant discrimination for reasons of convenience. Israel is incapable of being, and will not become, an apartheid state. The real choice facing us is to annex all the territories at the price of risking the Jewish majority or to have a democratic Jewish state that does not control another people, its assets, its rights, and the land it works on.

Seizing control of all the territory will not only lead to the loss of the Jewish character of the state, but also to the loss of any chance for peace in the future. Our enemies will unite, and our friends will sever ties with us, because we will appear to be a state that rules by force and is built on power, and only power. The Taba agreement is not the outcome of an imposition; it is the fruit of a free will. Today's Israel is not a weak or poor state. It is currently not susceptible to external pressure, nor is it facing a military threat. We have unprecedented military might and economic growth. Therefore, it is also the hour to make the correct decisions.

Mr. Speaker, the decision we have made has qualitative value on the one hand and military value on the other. The qualitative aspect is unequivocal: We do not want to rule by force over another people, not only because it leads the other people to revolt, but also because it harms the historical backbone of the Jewish people: a people who preferred to exercise restraint rather than rule others.

The realistic step is reflected in the absence of another alternative. It is impossible not to answer the question of what to do with a population of 2.5 million Palestinians who live in Gaza, Judaea, and Samaria. Shall we ignore their existence? Shall we claim that this is a problem that will disappear by itself? Should we let the brandishing of the sword replace the clear voice? Those who rely on the sword invite swords against them. A forceful annexation will give rise to national rage, religious fanaticism, international reservations, and economic isolation. A forceful annexation will create a continual search for violence and terror, endless threats of war, and a perpetual desire for nonconventional arms. Western Eretz Yisra'el must not turn into an eternal land of quarrel and must not feed radical and fanatic forces that try to equip themselves with modern weapons.

When two nations conclude an agreement, each side should address the main issue concerning the other. The Palestinians are concerned about their self-respect, while we are concerned about our national security. The Palestinians' self-respect will be largely regained when we are not their bosses. Israel's security will be guaranteed by a strategic map that extends from the Jordan River eastward to the sea. There will be no foreign army from the sea westward to the Gaza Strip border [sentence as heard]. The only army that will be deployed in this area or at its military sites will be the IDF. The IDF will be responsible for the security of Israel and for the safety of the Israelis and of the Israeli settlements, and it will be in its interest to fight terror just as the other side does. Not all self-respect has been regained, nor is there fool-proof security. This is an interim agreement; in other words, this is a crucial stage in the process of ending the enmity and organizing our entry into the next century.

There is no doubt that the agreement triggers various questions which should be addressed, and let me do so. First question: Why do you not put this agreement before the nation for a decision? The response is that since Camp David the nation has repeatedly decided in favor of self-rule in the territories with a strong Palestinian police. The Knesset voted on the Camp David accords which said, and I quote: In order to provide full autonomy to the inhabitants, under these arrangements the Israeli military government and its civilian administration will be withdrawn as soon as a self- governing authority has been freely elected by the inhabitants of these areas to replace the existing military

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government. The Camp David accords continue to say, as follows: The parties will negotiate an agreement which will define the powers and responsibilities of the self-governing authority to be exercised in the West Bank and Gaza. A withdrawal of Israeli armed forces will take place, and there will be a redeployment of the remaining Israeli forces into specified security locations. The agreement will also include arrangements for assuring internal and external security and public order. A strong local police force will be established, which may include Jordanian citizens. The Knesset endorsed this with a majority of 95 Knesset members [MK's]. We implemented the Knesset's resolution. Furthermore, in presenting the accord to the Knesset on 28 December 1977, then Prime Minister Menahem Begin said, and I quote: Upon the establishment of peace, we will propose an administrative autonomy for the Arab residents of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, based on the following principles: The military rule in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza will be abolished; an administrative autonomy will be established in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza for the Arab residents in these territories — and let me emphasize — by these territories' residents and on their behalf. According to then prime minister, Israel proposed to leave the question of sovereignty in these areas open. Knesset Members: This too was endorsed with a majority of 95 MK's.

Since then, in all election campaigns, the two large parties, the Alignment and the Likud — and not only them — supported the autonomy plan. The people were asked; the people answered. The people were asked several times and replied several times, and always the same reply. One can change one's opinion, but if one changes one's opinion, does it matter whether the change comes after an election campaign or after a national referendum?

A second question is asked: Does the agreement harm Israel's security or strengthen it? The security picture is also clear. The entire area, including the territories that will be administered by the Palestinian Authority [PA], will be demilitarized by no longer having a foreign army. In these territories, there will be no tanks, nor fighter planes, nor warships, nor missiles carrying warheads, except those that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] possesses. The strategic depth will not be decreased; it is the threat that will diminish. There will be no foreign army between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean. With Egypt in the south we have a peace treaty; with Jordan on the east we just signed another peace treaty; with the Palestinians, with the largest Palestinian body, the PLO, we reached an agreement whereby they will quit terror and fight it. As a result of this agreement with the PLO, the antiterror war has turned into a Palestinian interest, not only an Israeli one, and they know that terror aims to destroy peace and hurt the parties to peace. The PA is aware of the choice facing it: Either it will overcome the terrorists or they will overcome and destroy it. If they destroy the self-administration, the extremists will again wreak a disaster on the Palestinians. Knesset Members, nobody has caused worse damage to the Palestinian people than the Jerusalem mufti [in pre-state years]. His nay saying and the violence that accompanied it led the Palestinians to reject the partition plan; they were left without a state, the refugee problem was created, and hundreds of thousands of Palestinians were subjected to indescribable suffering until today. Mr. Speaker, we do not promise that terror will cease completely, but we believe that we have a new alignment which will be reflected in the antiterror war, possibly also in the not-too-distant future.

A third question asked is: Do you propose that the State of Israel rely on the Palestinian side? The answer to this question is unequivocal: As far as Israel's security is concerned, Israel will rely on itself only. Israel's security will continue to rely on the IDF, on the Israel Police, on the Shin Bet. These forces will not be weakened or stored away. As far as relations with the Palestinians are concerned, we want to create the possibility of coexistence, not as a replacement for the IDF, but as a replacement for the ongoing confrontation. The IDF defended the state in times of no peace; it will be able to defend it also when there is a partial or full peace.

If we are asked whether there is a chance for coexistence with the Palestinians, our response is affirmative. One million Arab citizens live in Israel, and we have honorable relations between us, which are free of violence. In the territories, there is a similar setup although in different proportions. There is no reason why the relations existing in Israel should not exist in the territories.

A fourth question asked is: Why do you give up territories, or to put it more pointedly, why do you sell off parts of the State of Israel? The answer is simple: We did not give up anything we own. We recognized the reality that parts of western Eretz Yisra'el will not be ours. Gaza was not ours; therefore, we did not give up something we had. Non-Jewish Arabs live in Nabulus and Bethlehem. Why should we be their managers or policemen? We did not give up our historical right to Eretz Yisra'el, but we also cannot give up understanding the reality that has been created during hundreds of years. We did not divide the land; it was divided between a Jewish population and a Palestinian population. It was not the Oslo agreement that created

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a map; it was the map that created the Oslo agreement. What can be decided is the character of the division: a division based on knives or a division based on agreements. We can create a divided house for eternity or build here — as one of our authors suggested — a two-family home.

A fifth question asked is: The Jewish settlers arrived following a government decision. Why are you demanding that they evacuate their homes? The answer is: Nobody has been asked to leave his home. We conducted negotiations, which contrary to Camp David, do not call for the evacuation of even a single settlement. What we want to bring about is a change in relations and not a change in locations. Had both sides cultivated different relations between them, all the problems would have been different. The hatred would have been replaced by understanding, and if relations improve, then there will be no problem, but if they remain the same, then there will be no solution.

The sixth question asked is: Why are you in a hurry? Wait, stop, rest. We have waited 28 years since the spectacular victory in the Six-Day War. We waited and paid. Since 1967, we have suffered the War of Attrition, in which hundreds of our boys died; the Yom Kippur War, in which thousands of our boys fell; the Lebanon war, in which over 600 of our boys fell; the intifadah, in which dozens of our citizens were murdered. What did we get from not being in a hurry? We got nowhere.

Those who say that we have to wait are sometimes the same people who claim that we must move on to a permanent settlement right away.

The negotiations over the current agreement have been in progress for 18 months. It has been discussed in thousands of details by military, legal, and administrative staffs. We considered various governmental and electoral systems, and various maps have been drawn. Toward the end of the negotiations, which is the end of the race, a supreme effort was made to bridge the remaining difficult problems. The conclusion was hard for us and for the Palestinians, but the very fact that we could reach an agreement without external pressure or external mediation proves that there is nothing stronger than a need ripe for a solution.

The seventh question asked is: Why did you not go straight into negotiations on the permanent settlement? Members of the Knesset, negotiations on the permanent settlement mean that the Jerusalem issue will become the focus of the negotiations, or to put it differently, it means putting the impossibility of reaching an agreement on Jerusalem at the heart of the dialogue with the Palestinians and bringing about the collapse of the negotiations. One of the most important things we have achieved in what is called the Oslo A and Oslo B agreements is to keep the Jerusalem issue out of these negotiations while maintaining it as a united city and the capital of Israel.

We do not believe that negotiations are a wheel of fortune where everything can be betted on. Step-by-step negotiations can in the long run enable us to agree on most issues without even agreeing to all of them. Member of the Knesset, agreement on 80 percent of the issues is preferable to nonagreement on 100 percent of the issues. It is also possible that the sides will find it easier to live with one issue on which there is no agreement. We entered the negotiations with clear-cut positions: implementation of autonomy, nonrule over another people, preventing the establishment of a binational state, nonreturn to the 1967 borders, and united Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. We did not retreat from a single one of those positions, and we reached important agreements.

The eighth question asked is: Is the autonomy the blueprint for a Palestinian state? Not necessarily. It can be a blueprint for other arrangements, which will include demilitarized lands and even lands that do not come under any sovereignty. We have learned that in negotiations, known solutions do not have a long life. They have supporters, but even more opponents. I believe that the permanent solution will be based not only on existing agreements or on fears, but on a series of totally new ideas that all those know-it-alls do not have any clue about.

The ninth question asked is: What has Israel gained from Oslo A and Oslo B? Israel has taken the political initiative. Gaza now looks better than that described in the agreement. Our soldiers will no longer have to endanger their lives, and katyushas have not been launched from it at Ashqelon or Qiryat Gat. As we know, something else will be set up in Qiryat Gat [a $1.5 billion Intel plant]. Israel without the Gaza Strip is more Israeli and stronger than Israel with the burden of Gaza on its shoulders.

As an outcome of the peace process, Israel gained unprecedented economic prosperity. New markets have been opened up to it, foreign capital has begun to flow into it, the trust in its future has become tremendous in scope, and as a result the wave of immigration has been absorbed and unemployment has declined. Israel is today the most productive market in the West. Its profits from its human talents are greater more than Saudi Arabia makes from its oil wells. The world has opened up to it. Israel's international status has improved unrecognizably: 154 states have diplomatic relations with us now compared to 93 when the peace

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process started. Our country is currently one of the most respected by the entire world. Even the Middle East has changed. Only two years ago, it looked like a dream to see on one platform the Egyptian president, the Jordanian monarch, the Moroccan prime minister, the Saudi foreign minister, the Israeli prime minister, and the PLO chairman, with the Americans, Russians, Europeans, and Japanese voicing praise and esteem.

There was the Casablanca conference which was a blow to the Arab economic boycott and gave the Middle East a new identity. There will be the Amman conference and the Barcelona conference, and there will be a Middle East development bank, and economic institutions will be set up and will lead the Middle East from the 19th century into the 21st century. All those things were ridiculed and are now facts. These conferences forced the Middle East countries to make economic plans. Dozens of regional plants have been transferred from the ideas level to the implementation level. The true choice of the Middle East is becoming clearer all the time: either a fundamentalist, old, isolated, poor, and violent Middle East, which faces the world like a pauper, or a modern, open, and educated Middle East, which enjoys economic prosperity, as many countries in Asia and Latin America have done.

The agreements we signed did not end all the dangers, but they opened up opportunities that did not exist previously and that we have not known before.

The tenth question asked is: Why do you not try to hold a dialogue with those who reject our way? The answer is that we are prepared to hold a dialogue with any element, but we are not prepared to participate in creating a big fuss. The location for a proper dialogue is here, in this house, in the Israeli Knesset, a dialogue that should be held in a polite and cultured way while listening to what each of us has to say and understanding that the unity of the people is possible even when there are differences of opinion. Freedom of expression and respect for the law cannot be divided in a democratic state. Furthermore, this house should present an example of an honorable and true debate.

Mr. Speaker, we have not made sufficient progress with Syria, but nobody can blame Israel — which has already signed four peace agreements — for lack of desire to move toward a comprehensive peace. Syria cannot conduct a peace strategy and tactically support terrorism without embroiling the entire region once again.

The relations with Jordan are like a fresh breath of air between two close neighbors who want to advance their peoples toward peace and prosperity. The peace with Egypt has become more stable as time goes on, and we know that we can have a dispute without tearing away at the fabric of peace.

Mr. Speaker, what we are currently doing is a strategic change, and I would even say a historical turning point. I understand the sadness over taking leave of the past and the fear of meeting a new tomorrow, but no pasts can be repeated, and there is no tomorrow that can be halted because we are not prepared to receive it. What we are doing calls for time, patience, overcoming obstacles and prejudices, and a clear vision of the real horizon, and we are working in that light.

Mr. Speaker, I will conclude with the wisdom of Rabbi Kook, which is that we should be Jews not only because of what Judaism was but also because of what Judaism is capable of being, or in his words: A nation that realizes the power of its existence, whose presence is weaned from its past, is necessarily strongly tied to its future.

We went a long way, and we will continue moving along that path. Thank you.

Knesset Approves Peres Statement; Netanyahu Reacts

TA2310185195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 23 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Knesset approved by 50 votes to 40, with one abstention, the political statement Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres made to the opening of its winter session. [passage omitted]

Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu said in his speech that the government is deviating from the principle that we must not depend on others. That was the case with the understandings reached in Lebanon with U.S. mediation. The IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] hands are now tied, and its soldiers are being killed. However, the gravest deviation from that principle is not in Lebanon, but in Judaea and Samaria. How will the IDF be able to defend us if it is prevented from entering the terrorists' safe havens, he asked.

Peres: 'Lid Should Not Be Sealed' on Syria Accord

TA2310145695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 23 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prior to his speech opening the Knesset's winter session, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said that the lid should not be sealed on the possibility of an agreement with Syria, despite the difficulties.

Our correspondent Yo'el Nor reports that in a political report to Labor's Knesset faction, Peres said that nobody

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knows for sure what President al-Asad's positions are. He moves slowly, but he does move, Peres said. Even at this moment the matter is not sealed, and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher is looking into how the process can be continued. Israel's position is one of caution so that we will not be the ones to turn off the light in the peace process with Syria. The foreign minister noted that only an agreement with Syria can bring about a solution to the problem in south Lebanon and not proposals like expanding the security zone.

In reference to the negotiations with the Palestinians, Mr. Peres said that from now on Israel will pay attention to the economic aspect and the implementation of the plans to set up industrial banks in the Gaza Strip. He noted that the Palestinian Authority [PA] is negotiating with Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and that according to the Palestinians, there are two possibilities: either an agreement with Hamas on the cessation of terrorism or the division of Hamas. The PA realizes that it must fight terrorism, which also harms it.

Cabinet Briefed on Doubled Cost of Redeployment

TA2310094095 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 23 Oct 95 pp 1, 12

[Report by Alon Pinkas]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] estimate of the cost of redeployment is approximately NIS [new Israeli shekels] 3 billion, or double the previous estimate already allocated, OC Central Command Maj.-Gen. Ilan Biran told the cabinet yesterday.

"You have underfunded the redeployment. I believe it will cost about NIS 3b.," Biran reportedly said, clearly angering Finance Minister Avraham Shohat and very possibly triggering a new round of hostilities between the Defense Ministry and the Treasury.

Shohat later said the IDF is "dreaming" if it really thinks the government would hand over an additional NIS 1.5b.

"It is inconceivable ... that the OC Central Command should talk about sums double those which have been agreed upon... There is a degree of irresponsibility in this," Shohat said.

"The IDF will need more border crossings, fences, and other measures than it had originally thought," said Labor and Social Affairs Minister Ora Namir. "Therefore, it estimates it will cost at least NIS 3b."

For the first time, the cabinet was presented with details of the IDF's redeployment plans, such as timetables and anticipated problems. Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahaq stressed that cooperation between the General Security Service and the Palestinian security services is critical to the agreement's success.

Biran presented the plans and updated maps. He told the cabinet that redeployment in Janin will begin on Wednesday [25 October], and will end there by November 17. The long period was explained as necessary to ensure an orderly transfer of civil powers to the Palestinian Authority.

The redeployment from Janin, Itim reported, is to be the subject at a meeting today between OC Judaea and Samaria Maj.-Gen. Gabi Ofir and al-Hajj Isma'il, commander of the PA [Palestinian Authority] forces in the West Bank.

Palestinian Police brass are to arrive at the coordination and communications office just south of Janin on Wednesday, and joint IDF-Palestinian Police patrols in Janin are to begin a few days later. The following week, the IDF is to leave the city and Palestinian policemen to enter.

Redeployment from Ramallah, Nabulus, Tulkarm, Qalqilyah, and Bethlehem is scheduled to end by late December, by which time, Biran reminded the cabinet, the PA is committed to nullify the articles in the Palestinian Covenant calling for the destruction of Israel.

Redeployment in Hebron is scheduled for March 1996 and elections for the Palestinian Council, Biran said, are to take place on January 20.

Biran elaborated on what he called "basic conditions" required for redeployment. Among them he listed completion of bypass roads, effective PA combating of Hamas terror, and overcoming the problems winter has in store.

Environment Minister Yosi Sarid said that if the Palestinian cities become safe havens for terrorists, "the entire timetable could be reviewed."

"The Palestinian Authority is acting against terrorism ... maybe not to our full satisfaction, but they are acting. The pressure works," he said.

Absorption Minister Ya'ir Tzaban said that, "The timetable is of the essence. We and the Palestinians share an interest in seeing the elections held as scheduled, so that the Palestinian Council is established to run the Palestinians' lives and combat terror."

[A similar report by Ori Nir on page A3 of Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 23 October adds that "the cabinet meeting opened with a briefing by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, who is deputizing for the prime minister." Peres is quoted as informing the cabinet that

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"the entire IDF redeployment schedule derives from the date of the elections in the territories, set for 20 January 1996.

[Peres said Israel is as interested as the Palestinians in seeing the Palestinian elections held at an early date, because that would enable Israel to maintain contact with an elected Palestinian leadership, made legitimate by popular support, and expedite the annulment of the agreed clauses in the Palestinian Covenant."]

Oslo 2 Opponents To Remain on Knesset Committee

TA2410063095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 24 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Labor mavericks Avigdor Qahalani and 'Imanu'el Zismann will not be replaced in the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee after declaring that they view themselves as full members of the Labor caucus. The two Knesset members [MK's] voted against the government's Oslo 2 agreement and drew sharp criticism within the party.

Yesterday they met with Labor Party Whip Ra'anan Kohen, and it was decided that during the winter session, they will consult with the caucus chairman before deciding to vote against the party's position.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0600 GMT on 24 October reports that the Third Way council, to which Qahalani and Zismann belong, "will convene today to decide whether the movement is to run in the next Knesset elections. Apparently, the movement executive's decision to pursue preparations for the elections will be endorsed by a majority. Several movement founders, including Reserves Generals Hofi and Zamir, want to postpone the election of a Third Way chairman, while MK Qahalani demands that one be elected within two weeks."]

Labor Fears Histadrut Probe Could Hurt Party

TA2410110395 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 24 Oct 95 p 1

[Report by Michal Yudelman and Liat Collins]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The investigation into Histadrut irregularities plunged Labor into turmoil yesterday, stirring fears the illegal actions attributed to former Histadrut leaders may blemish the entire party and seriously damage its chances in the next Knesset elections.

Labor leaders yesterday warned not to accuse the whole party of corruption for the alleged actions of a few, stressing that nobody has yet been charged with anything.

It was clear in Labor's leadership that the Likud would make use of the investigations to blast Labor in the election campaign and smear the whole party as corrupt.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin refused to comment from New York on the affair and said only that he has complete confidence in the Israeli judiciary system. "We are a state in which everyone is subject to the law," he said.

Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said that, "Nobody is blaming Labor as a party and everything else must be clarified in court. It [the alleged illegal actions] is not to be attached to the party, nor must the party take it on itself... When and if charges are brought, we will see what they are and act accordingly. The party is the party and the Histadrut is the Histadrut... there's a judicial system, let them decide."

Labor Secretary-General Nisim Zvili called for a halt to the exchange of accusations among cabinet ministers, which he said would severely damage the party.

Zvili warned not to try to "drag the entire party into the fray, and anyone who tries to do so will be proved wrong, when it appears that as a party and movement we strictly preserved all the rules of political ethics."

Zvili said he could not deny there are those within Labor who used the closed relationship with the Histadrut to advance their own causes, but said it is not a party problem and party leaders are not involved.

Both Peres and Zvili rejected claims the Histadrut scandal would affect the party's election campaign this year.

However MK [Knesset member] Hagay Merom said that any exposure of corruption or improper conduct are bad for the part and could endanger Labor in the elections. MK Gedalya Gal said, "There is no doubt this will affect Labor's status in the eyes of the public."

Former Histadrut Head Rejects Corruption Charges

TA2210100295 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 22 Oct 95 p 12

[Report by Michal Yudelman and Raine Marcus]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The attorney-general is expected to decide this week whether to indict some former senior Histadrut officials on corruption charges, after consulting with the police and the State Attorney's Office.

Transport Minister Yisra'el Qeysar, a former Histadrut secretary-general, was questioned Friday morning once again by the police team investigating the allegations

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of corruption in the Histadrut. Former senior Histadrut officials are suspected of using labor federation funds for Labor Party elections both for the Histadrut and for party primaries before the last Knesset elections.

Sources close to Qeysar said that the re-opening of the investigation against him was initiated by people within the Labor Party for political motives.

Qeysar, said police, answered all questions posed to him by his investigators. A senior police source added there is apparently insufficient evidence to indict Qeysar, who has always maintained his innocence.

"The evidence against Minister Qeysar is inconclusive, and is borderline, but the state attorney has the final decision," said the source. "There are some details that have to be clarified."

Qeysar was last interrogated nearly five months ago, when he told the police that he did not know about a financial contribution from Austrian trade unions to the Histadrut, and did not deal with this matter. Police suspect that part of this contribution, which is made annually to support various research projects, made its way to fund Qeysar's election campaigns.

Indictments are expected of other senior Histadrut officials, including former secretary-general Hayim Haberfeld and former treasurer Arthur Yisraelovitz.

Yisraelovitz, who is believed to have changed his testimony recently, reportedly told the police that he knew of the money from Austria and that Qeysar also knew of it.

Yisraelovitz, who has been questioned 15 times by the police in connection with allegedly illegal financial transactions in the Histadrut, claimed he did not know of any such transactions in the Histadrut, and had in the past consistently refused to implicate his colleagues.

He has also refused a police proposal that he turn state's witness in return for immunity from prosecution.

But in his last interrogation, when police told him that all his former Histadrut colleagues were denying all connection with the allegations dumping the whole case on him, he admitted knowledge of the Austrian funding.

In an interview in Friday's MA'ARIV, Yisraelovitz said that "those who want to bury Qeysar are using me as a springboard to finish him off politically. Add to this the ambition of Police Minister Moshe Shahal...who announced at the early stages of the investigation that soon indictments would be presented, and named names. This was before the prosecution had even seen the investigation material."

During his last interrogation, Yisraelovitz said "they called me and said that everyone had thrown me to the dogs, including Qeysar, who said he knew nothing of the primaries' campaign funds. I said that I knew about the funds from Austria, and so did Qeysar.

"The Austrians had extremely warm relations with (Qeysar). They — trade union heads, chambers of commerce and mayors — decided to contribute to Qeysar's elections," he said.

Yisraelovitz said in the interview that the police questions mainly focused on the investigation agency allegedly employed by Haberfeld's campaign staff against MK [Knesset member] Hayim Ramon, today Histadrut chairman; on Qeysar's primaries; and on [the possible involvement of Labor Secretary-General Nisim Zvili.

He said the Histadrut's reputation of being a corrupt, stagnant body came from "Ramon and his colleagues, who saw to it. Already in 1987 they announced that the Histadrut is corrupt and inefficient. You could build a career on such statements."

Beilin's Plan for Jerusalem Reported

TA2410074995 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 24 Oct 95 pp A1, 10

[Report by Nadav Shragay, Aluf Ben, and 'Aqiva Eldar]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Economy and Planning Minister Yosi Beilin says he is acting to launch Israeli-Palestinian negotiations on permanent arrangements in Jerusalem in which mutually acceptable basic concepts will be formulated. Beilin made these remarks in the course of a Culture on Sabbath discussion forum held in Jerusalem three days ago, after he was asked to confirm his connection with the Jerusalem plan, drafted by Ya'ir Hirshfeld and Ron Pundaq, Beilin's close associates and co-authors of the Oslo A agreement, in collaboration with Orient House staffers.

According to Hirshfeld, the plan proposes establishing two city halls — one for the Arab part and another for the Jewish part of Jerusalem — with a supreme municipality operating above the two. The plan further addresses the sovereignty and holy sites issues.

Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert said two days ago that he has information that Beilin has been guiding, instructing, and directing Pundaq's and Hirshfeld's work, and that the practical implication of the emerging plan is divided sovereignty in Jerusalem.

Speaking at the Culture on Sabbath event, Beilin further said: "In exchange for Arab-Palestinian recognition of Jerusalem's status as the capital of Israel, the approximately 170,000 Arab inhabitants of Jerusalem will have

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to be given a sort of independent administration and sovereignty of some kind, in the framework of a future Jordanian-Palestinian confederation, which seems preferable to me.

"The frequently made statements that Jerusalem cannot be negotiated are wrong. The current absence of international recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel must not go on. In the negotiations on Jerusalem, there will be a demand for Palestinian, Arab, and international recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. A permanent arrangement will not be signed without such recognition."

Beilin added: "Each side has its red lines regarding Jerusalem, but we will not get all we want, and the Palestinians will not get all they want. As far as we are concerned, at least, Jerusalem will not be redivided."

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin yesterday reacted sharply to Minister Yosi Beilin's remarks on a possible arrangement in Jerusalem. Speaking in New York, Rabin said: "This is not the government's stand, and I regret the irresponsible observations on the issue of undivided Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, on Israeli sovereignty. It is a shame such observations are being made." [passage omitted]

Beilin Denies Plan To Cede Jerusalem's Sovereignty

TA2410081195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 24 Oct 95

[Telephone interview with Economy and Planning Minister Yosi Beilin by Arye Golan; place not given — live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Golan] Good morning, Economy and Planning Minister Yosi Beilin.

[Beilin] Good morning.

[Golan] Do you confirm that the team which was responsible for the first Oslo accord — Ron Pundaq and Ya'ir Hirshfeld, guided by you — is in the midst of clandestine discussions with Orient House personnel, including Faysal al-Husayni, on a proposal on the Jerusalem issue, which includes two city halls — a Palestinian and an Israeli one — with a supreme municipality above them? Do you confirm your remarks in Jerusalem a few days ago regarding Palestinian sovereignty in exchange for their recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel?

[Beilin] I read the HA'ARETZ report today, and I was amazed to see that such a responsible newspaper should print a mendacious report without even bothering to publish my reaction. This report is baseless. It is not as if I made the remarks in some secret forum. I spoke at a Culture on Sabbath forum, moderated by journalist Gad Li'or from YEDI'OT AHARONOT, who did not even report my remarks in his newspaper. He reported other items from that Culture on Sabbath discussion, because I said nothing new there. I am amazed that a man who did not attend the discussion should publish such a grave allegation: that an Israeli minister is prepared to transfer sovereignty over Jerusalem to the Palestinians. Nothing like that was said.

[Golan] Did you say anything that could have been misinterpreted?

[Beilin] I said that in the permanent arrangement negotiations, we will have to demand a recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, and that I do not see a permanent arrangement without this. I said 170,000 Palestinians live in Jerusalem, and the permanent arrangement will have to enable them to run their lives without a change in the sovereignty issue. This proposal was made in FOREIGN AFFAIRS by [former Jerusalem Mayor] Teddy Kollek in 1988. I have referred to this proposal several times before, as I think it is the only solution for East Jerusalem Arabs: They should be allowed to have their own administrations within Israeli sovereignty and within a joint municipality. I think this proposal could be acceptable to everyone. I am sorry some people so frivolously attributed remarks about non-Israeli sovereignty in Jerusalem to me. I will not tolerate it.

[Golan] Another person who did not attend the Culture on Sabbath event, but has reacted, is Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. As we reported, Rabin said the proposal does not reflect the government's position. He regrets such irresponsible talk on the issue of Jerusalem's unity as the Israeli capital under Israeli sovereignty, and that it is a pity such remarks have been made.

[Beilin] I think he is right. Were I the prime minister of Israel, I would possibly react even more sharply if I heard an Israeli minister announcing his willingness to cede sovereignty over Jerusalem. [passage omitted]

Savir on Redeployment Process, Timetable

TA2310190095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1600 GMT 23 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The transfer of the West Bank town of Janin to the self-rule authority is scheduled to begin Wednesday [25 October], with the opening of the district coordinating office. However, Israeli troops will not begin their redeployment from the town for at least a week, as Foreign Ministry Director General Uri Savir told reporters today. At the briefing in Jerusalem was No'omi Segal.

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[Begin recording] [Segal] As the Foreign Ministry director general described it, the Israeli pullback from each West Bank town slated for redeployment is actually a three-week process. Savir said that this would give the sides the chance to set up the necessary framework for coordinating activities in the district. In practical terms, this means that anyone who thought Israeli troops would be packing up and driving out of Janin this Wednesday will have to wait, probably until the beginning of next month.

[Savir] The transfer is not happening on the 25th. In every district, there is a three-week process, that starts with the opening of the DCO [District Coordination and Cooperation Office], and you have an overlap period of three weeks between the offices, while during that period, it is still under our security and public order responsibility. During that period, you have another few processes going on. You have the transfer of civilian authorities to the Janin district a few days before the redeployment is completed, and there will be a meeting on that the day after tomorrow between Oren Shahor and Jamil al-Tarifi. You will have the redeployment from the city of Janin. You will have the entry of Palestinian police into Janin, and then you will have the entry of Palestinian police into those police stations that are in the B area, which is the last step to be completed, and the beginning of the joint patrols. All of this takes three weeks, is very well planned, and we work with our Palestinian counterpart on every detail of this procedure. There is no change in terms of the beginning of the 25th, which I think was your answer. The end is for the 19th [of January]; Chairman 'Arafat has asked us to finalize it a little bit earlier, and we may make an effort in this direction, depending how things go.

[Segal] In Savir's view the complexity of the agreement is its main asset, by forcing the two sides to coordinate. He said the redeployment from Janin and five other West Bank towns would be completed in time for elections in the territories on January 20th. He said the redeployment from most parts of Hebron would take place some time after the elections.

The Foreign Ministry director general also said that a joint security committee is working out final details regarding two safe passage routes between the Jericho and Gaza self-rule areas. He said that while it seems logical to open the routes only after the redeployment is completed, Israel is willing to discuss earlier dates. Savir would not respond specifically to recent reports of the pending reconciliation between the Palestinian Authority [PA] and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], saying only that Hamas still did not appear to be functioning as a unified organization.

On the threat of Muslim fundamentalist terror, Savir said the PA had realized it could not deal with violent opposition through political compromise alone. He also said that Israel will not tolerate any of the West Bank towns becoming shelters for terrorists.

[Savir] We don't want half a dozen crazies to kill the peace process. If we would have the luxury of time, then you could say you pay a certain price in terms of violence and then you go on. It's enough for another few incidents, God forbid, to bring an end to this process.

[Segal] On the upcoming regional economic conference in Amman, Savir acknowledged Arab fears that such a gathering would primarily serve Israeli interests, but he said that the process of holding such meetings outweighed negative perceptions about them.

[Savir] I at least was positively surprised when I saw a couple of days ago the list of participants in Amman. To some degree, it is a defeat of Arab and Israeli skeptics that Arab-Israeli regional economic cooperation can be stopped by either side's excessive paranoias. [end recording]

Police Cooperation Agreement Signed With Jordan

TA2410093995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 24 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] An agreement for cooperation between the Israeli and Jordanian police forces was signed in Bet Gavri'el on the Sea of Galilee a short while ago. It was signed by Police Minister Moshe Shahal and Jordanian Interior Minister Salamah Hammad.

Our correspondent Ilan Ro'e reports that the cooperation between the two countries will consist, among other things, of the common battle against serious crime and drug trafficking. The two police forces will exchange information and collaborate in times of mass catastrophes.

It was further agreed that a direct telephone line will link the representatives of the two police forces.

Rabin Meets Morocco's King Hassan in New York

TA2410093795 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 24 Oct 95 pp 1, 2

[Report by Avino'am Bar-Yosef in Washington]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad's major fear with regard to signing a peace agreement with Israel stems from the prevailing assessment in Damascus that such an arrangement would lead to a loss of Syrian control over Lebanon. This was what Moroccan King Hassan told Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin

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when the two men met at the end of the week in New York. [passage omitted]

The initial secret reports on King Hassan's meeting with Rabin indicate that the focus of their discussion was on promoting the peace negotiations between Syria and Israel.

According to Hassan, who attempted to mediate between Jerusalem and Damascus, al-Asad gives continued Syrian control over Lebanon even higher priority than an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights.

Sources in Washington expressed the assessment that the administration is acting to assuage al-Asad's fears with regard to losing Lebanon, seeing as Rabin has already stated his readiness in the past to accept the presence of Syrian forces in Lebanon. The Washington sources also noted that in their view the chances of resuming the Syrian-Israeli talks were slim.

Security Officer Held on Kidnap, Torture Charge

TA2410100895 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 24 Oct 95 p 13

[Report by Golan Yosifun]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Two days ago, the Minorities Department at the Jerusalem District Police detained an interrogation and intelligence officer of the Palestinian Security Service headed by Jibril al-Rujub. He is suspected of ordering the kidnaping and torture of Jerusalem and West Bank residents whom he suspected of collaboration with Israel.

The police possess evidence that the Palestinian officer, Musa Mustafa from 'Isawiyah, ordered the West Bank and Jerusalem residents suspected of collaboration with Israeli authorities to be moved to a torture installation in Jericho.

The evidence is based mainly on the testimonies of Walid 'Atiyya and Riyad Shaqir, whom the Palestinian officer is suspected of recruiting and sending to kidnap people in Jerusalem.

Police representative Avi Pinhasi noted that the officer, who works at Jibril al-Rujub's headquarters, "is responsible for harming, injuring, and torturing innocent people."

A search of his home revealed documents attesting to his activities for the Palestinian Security Service. Other suspects had been detained and indicted in this affair before. [passage omitted]

Justice Ya'aqov Tzaban, Jerusalem Magistrate's Court vice president, ruled that there was well-grounded evidence against the officer and remanded him in custody for six days.

Unemployment Bureaus Note Reduction in Job Seekers

TA2310095295 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 23 Oct 95 p 12

[Report by Michal Yudelman]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Some 6,500 fewer job seekers — a reduction of 5.2%- was registered by the employment bureaus last month, compared to the previous month, in which some 112,000 people applied for jobs, Labor and Social Affairs Ora Namir reported yesterday.

Namir expressed satisfaction with the decrease in unemployment, noting that this was the result of the stricter regulations for getting unemployment compensation, which were introduced last month.

At the same time, Namir voiced concern for the increase in the proportion of women among the unemployed, and pointed out that there is a large group of unemployed Druse, Arab and Beduin women, for whom it is difficult to find any jobs outside their places of residence.

The lowest unemployment rates — less than 2% — are still registered in Tel Aviv, Jerusalem and Elat, while the highest rates of unemployment remain in the southern region. Those areas most afflicted, with unemployment at more than 10%, are the development towns of Ofaqim, Sederot, Mizpe Ramon, Yeroham, Qiryat Gat and Qiryat Mal'akhi.

The number of women rose in September to 57.1% of the overall number of job-seekers, up from 55.9% in August.

Some 25,000 new job-seekers joined the unemployment roles in September, compared to 28,000 the previous month, and 32,000 two months ago.

The number of new immigrants among the job-seekers in September was 9,300, compared to 10,800 in August.

Some 4,400 job-seekers who refused work offered them by the employment bureaus lost their right to unemployment payments in September, compared to 5,200 in August.

Sixty-six percent of the job-seekers are unskilled laborers. Of the skilled workers seeking jobs, 48% are academics and scientists, 14.6% are independent professionals, 0.8% are managers, 3.8% are in services and clerical jobs, 2.1% are in sales and 13.9% are in the industry and transport fields.

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73,500 work permits for foreign workers were issued in September, which is a rise of 300 compared to the previous month.

32,300 workers from Judaea, Samaria and Gaza found employment via the employment bureaus during September, compared to 32,600 in August. Some 2,300 workers from Lebanon also found positions in Israel.

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Convict Linked to Plan To Kill Husayn Kamil Freed

JN2310153695 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic 23 Oct 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Schoolteacher 'Uthman al-Dumur was freed on 18 October after paying a fine in lieu of serving a three-month prison term for slandering senior officials and threatening to kill defecting General Husayn Kamil.

A security force reinforced with several armored vehicles stormed al-Dumur's house in the village of al-Ghuwayr in al-Karak at midnight on 11 October and apprehended him after searching his house very painstakingly. The force even inspected the sewage lines using long steel bars. It found a revolver and empty cartridges in his house.

Al-Dumur, who works as a schoolteacher in al-Karak, along with three others affiliated with the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, were interrogated for slandering senior officials, threatening to kill Husayn Kamil and branding him as a traitor. They were also interrogated about the existence of financial or moral ties with Iraqi officials or acting upon their instigation, which could be viewed as part of a plan to assassinate the defecting general.

The three defendants were acquitted, whereas the State Security Court sentenced schoolteacher al-Dumur to three months in prison. Moreover, he was suspended from working at the Ministry of Education schools.

Members Comment on Disputes Within IAF

JN2310143095 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 23 Oct 95 pp 7, 12

["Special to the JORDAN TIMES" by Sa'idah Kilani]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—The Islamic Action-Front (IAF) leadership on Sunday ruled out the possibility of dissensions within its ranks and said a months-old crisis with some of its leading members have been sorted out.

But one IAF former member heavily criticised the performance of the country's largest political party and predicted its downfall if it did not change its administrative policies.

"It is not true that they (the IAF leadership) reached Abu- Ghanimah, a former IAF member. "The party is disunited and is shrinking (in membership) more and more with time." He was referring to a seven-hour meeting Friday of the IAF Shura council after which the front issued a statement calling for unity in its ranks.

Mr. Abu-Ghanimah's comments were dismissed by the IAF leadership as baseless.

Lower House of Parliament Deputy Muhammad 'Uwaydah told the JORDAN TIMES that a dispute between three leading IAF members and the front's leadership has been settled at the Friday meeting.

"There are some people who dream of seeing the front collapse," said Dr. 'Uwaydah. "When they heard of internal differences, they thought their dream had come true."

"To their disappointment, the front emerged (from the crisis) stronger than before," he added.

The three IAF members and also Parliament deputies Hammam Sa'id, Ahmad al-Kufahi and 'Abd-al-Mun'im Abu-Zant, were judged by the leadership as having violated the party's byelaws when they abstained from attending a House session dedicated for the discussion of the laws related to lifting the boycott on Israel. Despite the front's decision to attend the session and vote against the proposed legislations, the three deputies ruled that more participation in the session was religiously unacceptable.

The front's executive bureau then decided to freeze the membership of Dr. Sa'id for three months and Dr. Abu-Zant for six months and to warn Dr. al-Kufahi, the measures were dismissed by the three deputies as not being the right of the executive bureau.

"It is so normal that differences arise within the front," said IAF deputy from al-Zarqa' Muhammad al-Hajj. "But the final decisions taken at (Friday) meeting were passed with an overwhelming majority."

Among other decisions, the Shura council decided in its extraordinary meeting on Friday on the establishment of a central court in its lead-quarters in Amman as well as other courts at all IAF branches.

Dr. Sa'id who was elected as reserve member of the central court, refused to comment on the meeting.

IAF Deputies To Boycott Economic Summit

JN2410092795 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 24 Oct 95 p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman, AL-RA'Y—Deputies Dr. Muhammad 'Uwaydah, Dhib Anis, and Badr al-Riyati, who are members of the Islamic Action Front [IAF] as well as the Financial Committee [in the House of Representatives], have said they will not participate in the parliamentary delegation to the Amman economic conference. The delegation includes committee members, some deputies, and heads of committees .

The IAF deputies have announced they will boycott the conference based on their firm position on the peace process.

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IAF Deputies Protest Israeli Jet Overflights

JN2410094695 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 24 Oct 95 p 12

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman (J.T.)—Islamic Action Front (IAF) members of parliament Monday [23 October] criticised the participation of royal Jordanian Air Force jets and helicopters in a formation flight over Israel, Jordan and the West Bank. "An aircraft piloted by a Zionist terrorist, who has been raiding our cities, villages and camps, must not be made to fly joyously in the skies of Amman," the deputies said in a statement. "Likewise the Jordanian eagle (the emblem of RJAF)... must not fly the skies of Palestine except in a mission of jihad," the statement said. The Islamist parliamentarians called for an end to "normalisation between our Armed Forces and the enemy's as in all other aspects."

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Justice Minister Delivers Speech at UN

NC2310180695 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 23 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Justice Minister Bahij Tabbarah has delivered Lebanon's speech on the UN 50th anniversary. He expressed the Lebanese people's disappointment at the daily acts of violence committed by the Israeli occupation forces in south Lebanon and the UN stances that are indifferent to what is happening in the region.

Minister Tabbarah, who leads Lebanon's delegation to New York to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the United Nations, added that the UN has failed to implement Resolution 425. Lebanon, however, has never failed to pay its financial obligations to the UN, despite the non-implementation of the international resolutions. Minister Tabbarah stressed the need to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

Al-Hirawi Receives Syrian Vice President

NC2410094695 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0900 GMT 24 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President of the Republic Ilyas al-Hirawi received at 1000 this morning Syrian Second Vice President Zuhayr Mashariqah, who headed a delegation which included Wahib Fadil, minister of state for presidential affairs, and Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an, commander of the security and reconnaissance branch of the Syrian Forces operating in Lebanon. The delegation offered congratulations on behalf of Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad to President al-Hirawi for continuing his term in office for another three years.

Radio Reports Shelling, Mock Raids in South

NC2310182195 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 23 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Since this afternoon, the Iqlim al-Tuffah heights, al-Jabal al-Rafi', the ridges of al-Rayhan, and al-Jurmuq have been coming under artillery fire by the occupation troops stationed in al-Zaffatah and al-'Ayshiyah.

Citing security sources in the south, AFP has reported that the Lebanese Army opened antiaircraft fire at enemy planes that had flown at low altitude over Sidon, the Palestinian camps, and Iqlim al-Tuffah heights. The same sources added that four Israeli warplanes conducted mock raids for about an hour.

Further on Shelling

NC2410074895 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 24 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The security situation in the south remained tense as a result of the occupation forces's assaults and shelling of the liberated villages.

Zionist warplanes overflew the south throughout the night, continuing their sorties until dawn today. Pilotless drones overflew al-Nabatiyah and Iqlim al-Tuffah.

Travelers from Arnun and Yuhmur have reported that a clash occurred at dawn today between a resistance group and enemy forces on the Qal'at al-Shaqif-Arnun axis. The resistance group was on its way to carry out an operation against an enemy post near Qal'at al-Shaqif when the clash took place.

Enemy troops deployed in the Sujud and al-Suwayda' positions raked with machine-gun fire and rockets the areas surrounding these positions, the Sujud hills, and Jabal al-Rafi'.

Mazra'at al-Hamra' and the peripheries of Yuhmur and Arnun came under artillery shelling from the enemy's positions in al-Tayyibah.

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Palestinian Deportees From Libya Arrive in Latakia

First Group Totals 250 Passengers

JN2310174395 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 23 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The first group of Palestinians deported from Libya arrived at the Port of Latakia at 1100 today via Cyprus on board the ship Fayizah Express. The group totals 250 passengers.

When the ship arrived at the dock, the passengers on board shouted slogans wishing His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad long life and carried portraits of his excellency the president as well as flags of the Syrian Arab Republic.

In statements to the correspondent of the SYRIAN ARAB NEWS AGENCY, several Palestinian passengers expressed their happiness and jubilation over their arrival in Arab Syria. Khalid Janahlab asserted that Syria is the homeland of all Arabs. He expressed his great thanks to His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad for the help Syria extended to the Palestinian deportees. He indicated that the deportees turned down the offers of the ambassador of the limited self-rule authority to hold contacts with them. He expressed the deportees' rejection of the accords concluded between the limited self-rule authority and Israel, because these accords do not meet the ambitions of the Palestinian people and are lacking in credibility.

Mrs. Dina Salih expressed her indescribable happiness with the docking of the ship in a port in Syria, her second home and the home of His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, who ended their 10-day ordeal.

For her part, Zakiyah Hasan 'Ali Dib, a student, said: My arrival in Syria amounts to my return home. For Syria has done a great deal for me. I thank His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad and the Syrian people for their support for the deportees and the Palestinian people during the ordeals they have experienced.

Muyassar 'Abd-al-Qadir spoke about her ordeal on the high seas, which lasted 10 days, saying that several women miscarried, while many others gave birth on board the ship. She appreciated the decision of Arab Syria under His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad to charter a ship and transport the deportees to Syria.

'Atwan Abu-Salim and his wife expressed their great appreciation for the position of His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, who has always been a staunch advocate of Arab rights and the hero of both war and peace. By his pan-Arab stands, he epitomizes the aspirations of the Arab people, Abu-Salim added.

Muhammad Shihadah al-Duni, captain of the ship Fayizah Express, said that the group of deportees that arrived today is the first, and that it will be followed by a second group that will arrive on board the ship al-Asad, which has headed for the Cypriot coast for this purpose.

The deportees expressed their thanks and appreciation for the efforts the Syrian Arab embassy in Cyprus made to ensure their arrival in Syria.

In a related development, Rustum al-Zu'bi, Syrian charge d'affaires in Cyprus, asserted that a second ship will transport the second group of Palestinian deportees holding Syrian passports or travel documents to the Port of Latakia. He indicated that the number of the deportees to set foot on Syrian territory will eventually total 612.

In a statement to AFP, Cypriot Minister of Communications and Works Adhamos Adhamidhis said that the problem of the Palestinian deportees has been largely resolved. The correspondents of several news agencies in Cyprus reported that Palestinian men, women, and children were signing and showing jubilation during their voyage from the Cypriot port of Larnaca to Latakia. They reported that the Palestinians shouted slogans praising al-Asad and carried a large portrait of him.

Second Group Arrives

JN2310203195 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 23 Oct 95

[Announcer-read report over video]

[FBIS Translated Text] His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad received a cable from the Palestinians who arrived in Latakia from Larnaca on board the Syrian ship al-Asad. The cable was sent when the deportees were on the high seas.

The cable reads as follows: We are the Palestinian Arabs returning from Libya on board the Syrian ship al-Asad, which is coming from Larnaca. We would like to extend to you and to your lofty Arab people the greetings of affection, appreciation, and respect. We appreciate your noble pan-Arab positions, for which you have been famous. We are grateful for your noble gesture, and also for the great efforts you have made on our behalf to bring about our return to al-Asad's Syria, the throbbing heart of Arabism. May God grant you long life and victory over your enemies.

The ship al-Asad arrived in the Port of Latakia at 1800 today carrying 340 Palestinian deportees from the Cypriot Port of Larnaca.

The first group of the Palestinian Libya deportees had earlier in the day arrived in the Port of Latakia via

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Cyprus on board the ship Fayizah Express, carrying 250 passengers. When each of the two ships arrived, the passengers and crowds waiting on the docks shouted, expressing their love, appreciation, and gratitude to His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad.

Several Palestinian deportees made statements affirming their great thanks and appreciation for the wise and courageous leadership of His Excellency struggler President Hafiz al-Asad.

Foreign Minister Meets UAE Deputy Prime Minister

JN2310213695 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 23 Oct 95

[Announcer-read report over video]

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' met with Shaykh Sultan Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, deputy prime minister of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], at the UN Headquarters in New York yesterday evening. They discussed Arab developments, the peace process, and fraternal bilateral ties.

UN Urged To Apply Equal Standards to All

JN2410092195 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 24 Oct 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In an article today, AL-THAWRAH discusses the world celebrations of the 50th anniversary of the United Nations and the San Francisco Declaration. The paper says: Syria holds all respect and regard for the United Nations, its resolutions, and Charter. This is because it is the only focal point to which the world community refers to resolve all issues and conflicts. The United Nations is the only party that can provide just and fair solutions, because its Charter includes fair laws and provisions.

AL-THAWRAH stresses that international resolutions must be binding to all parties. This requires everyone, particularly the member-states that have the veto power, to implement these resolutions according to the same standards, and on everyone without any exception. AL-THAWRAH expresses the hope that the United Nations will be characterized by this trait in the future.

Relocation of U.S. Embassy To 'Harm' Interests

JN2410084095 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 24 Oct 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] AL-BA'TH says: The ignorance by certain international decisionmaking bodies of the nature and dimensions of the Arab-Israeli conflict and sensitivity of the current negotiations—and the fact that these bodies take positions that harm and undermine the peace process, complicate regional peace and bolster Israel's intransigence and arrogance. The bill the U.S. Congress began discussing yesterday falls within this framework. This bill calls for moving the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to occupied Jerusalem.

AL-BA'TH adds: The U.S. Administration, which is directly involved in the peace process, realizes more than any other party the danger of this measure and its negative effects on the entire peace process. The Administration has announced it will veto the bill if passed by the Congress.

The paper asks the U.S. Administration — in light of recent developments, particularly the Administration's affirmation of its commitment to the peace process in general, and to activating the Syrian track in particular — to move in a more effective way to rescue that process from its impasses and prevent it from collapsing.

AL-BA'TH says it believes the peace process cannot progress toward its objectives without the application of extra pressure on Israel to force it to submit to the resolutions of international legitimacy and acknowledge Arab rights in full.

AL-BA'TH concludes by saying: A just, comprehensive peace is demanded by the people of the region. Only this kind of peace can achieve the people's objectives and aspirations for security, stability, and economic prosperity.

In its editorial, TISHRIN discusses the dangers that will result from moving the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, and the effect such a move will have on the peace process. The paper says: If those who advocate the bill to move the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem assume that rewarding Israel will strengthen its adherence to peace, then they are very mistaken. There are scores of facts which confirm that the more rewards and aid are given to Israel, the greater the expansionist and aggressive tendency in the policy of the Rabin government.

TISHRIN adds: The scores of millions of dollars which the United States gave to Israel to reward it for signing the Camp David Accords did not make any of the successive Tel Aviv governments more committed to peace. TISHRIN recalls what Israel did after that. Its says Israel annexed Jerusalem, approved a decision to annex the Golan Heights, and invaded Lebanon in June 1982. Israeli policy's intransigence and aggressive tendency also grew after the Oslo agreement and the treaty with Jordan, when Israel moved from planning to usurp more land in the countries neighboring occupied

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Palestine to considering control over the entire Arab homeland through purported economic projects.

TISHRIN stresses that no matter how hard the advocates of the bill to move the U.S. Embassy to occupied Jerusalem try to justify their decision and mask its ugly features, they will fail to hide the fact that this step is a 100-percent Israeli decision implemented by U.S. legislators, and that such a step will harm U.S. interests and legitimate Arab rights.

TISHRIN concludes by saying: This step will also encourage the Rabin government to increase its intransigence, aggressiveness, and rejection of the requirements of a just, comprehensive peace.

'Influential Countries' Urged To Pressure Israel

JN2410093295 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 24 Oct 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] AL-THAWRAH discusses the importance of peace in the Middle East and its positive impact on the region and the world. The paper says: What has been said on the UN platform clearly embodies the sweeping world desire to advance the peace process. AL-THAWRAH says this cannot be achieved as long as Israel refuses to abide by the requirements of peace and wishes to impose its dictates and conditions as an alternative to international resolutions.

The paper says it believes the international community fully realizes that the restoral of Arab land and rights constitutes the only foundation for building a firm peace in the Middle East.

The paper concludes by saying: It is impossible to arrive at peace as long as Israel dreams of expansion and hegemony, refuses to acknowledge Arab rights and the return of land in full to its owners, and as long as influential countries do not take on their responsibility to force Israel to submit to the world's readiness to preserve rights and justice.

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Afghanistan

Embassy Denies Khalili's Capture of Province

LD2310160295 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Pashto 1230 GMT 23 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] An informed source in the Afghan embassy in Tehran has denied a claim made by some opponents of the Afghan government that Karim Khalili's Hezb-e Wahdat [Islamic Unity] faction has captured the areas of Ghowrband and Doab in Parwan province. In an interview with the news unit of Iran's radio and television's external services today, Mr. Khorasani, the charge d'affaires of the Afghan embassy in Tehran, said: Ghowrband and Doab areas are under the control of the forces supporting Borhanoddin Rabbani.

This denial comes at a time when Mirza'i, a spokesman of Karim Khalili's Hezb-e Wahdat faction, claimed in Peshawar that forces opposing Rabbani's government captured Ghowrband and Doab last night. [passage omitted]

Defense Chief Comments on Current Developments

LD2310212295 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1600 GMT 23 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Dear listeners, Mohammad Yonis Qanuni, acting minister of defense and head of the Kabul security commission, has delivered a speech at a meeting about political and military developments in the country. May we draw your attention to this speech:

[Begin Qanuni recording] [passage omitted] I would like to brief you about political and military developments in the country. [passage omitted] When Pakistan realized that it could not achieve military victory and breach Kabul's security belts and overthrow the government in Afghanistan, it resorted to another conspiracy to form a new military alliance in order to launch a fresh attack on Kabul. For this purpose a meeting, which was attended by the representatives of Hekmatyar, General Dostam, the Jihadi council of Nangarhar, and the Taleban, was held in Islamabad. Later the meetings continued in Nangarhar. But by the grace of God and the candor of the religious scholars and the people of Nangarhar, this conspiracy failed too. The conspiracy was for Dostam to attack from the north, Hekmatyar from Sarobi, the Taleban from Mohammad Agha and Maydanshar, and Karim Khalili from central regions.

This large operation would have been mounted with the participation of the Jihadi council of Nangarhar. The latter was instructed by [Pakistan] inter-services intelligence general by the name of Majid to raise 3,000 people for attack on Kabul, and thereby to create a new front against the government by our own mojahedin. But the religious scholars and the neutral mojahedin groups in the eastern zone rejected this plot and said that they would not fight against the Muslims and our people in the interest of Pakistan. So this Pakistani conspiracy was aborted.

Now you see that Pakistan has come to a deadlock both in military and in political terms. The Taleban's failure to capture Kabul or penetrate it led the Pakistanis into a deadlock. So Asef Ali visited Europan Union countries and called on Zahir Shah in Rome and asked them to support his country. In Rome he told Zahir Shah that the Taleban has no leader so he should accept their leadership. But Zahir Shah told him that so long as there is fighting in Kabul he will not enter the city to be called a Pakistani mercenary. This Pakistani plot also failed.

Now there are new political developments and movements. We hope that, God willing, after the defeat of Pakistan's strategy and the acceptance of the fact that they cannot overthrow the Islamic sovereignty in Afghanistan, they cannot militarily impose a puppet and a non-Islamic regime in Afganistan. [sentence as heard] Pakistan has always been of the opinion that the Taleban could not enter Kabul militarily, but that the fighting should continue, in order to hamper security and stability in Afganistan. This is Pakistan's strategy. [passage omitted]

Brothers, rumors are going round that the government might fall, the people might leave, a number of people might surrender and that there are private contacts, secret understandings and contacts with this side or that. Those are the rumors we hear. I would like to tell you one word, and, that is, that the decision of every member of the armed forces, especially your Islamic and national army, is that they will either die with their people inside their country or will have defended every inch of this country and their Islamic sovereignty. Brothers, this is the decision of every member of your armed forces. [passage omitted] This, however, does not mean that your armed forces do not seek another way. You should never think so. We can welcome any path that leads to the safeguarding of our national interests, the Islamic sovereignty in this country and the territorial integrity and national unity of our country. [passage omitted]

Brothers, you hear from the mass media; you hear from the VOA and the BBC that the fundamentalism which was used against us yesterday did not work. They said: We were fundamentalists. We did not want to be a part of the international community and to have relations with the rest of the world. This propaganda's period passed. They decided to launch another war in Afghanistan in the form of war between the north and

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the south. When they realized that it was not a north-south war, they raised the issue of Pashto and Persian: There was a Tajik regime in Afghanistan. The aim of this propaganda was to divide this united country. But they have forgotten that now there is one thing in Afghanistan, and that is Islam and being Afghan. [passage omitted]

If you take away Islam from Afghanistan, nothing will be left of Afghanistan. Most of the tribes in Afghanistan are minorities in comparison with those across the Afghan border. This is enemy propaganda [as heard]. Look, a journalist from the Pashto section of the BBC, against all journalistic norms, goes to a non-expert person, a Pakistan mercenary, a person who does not observe the decency of expression and writing but who is a Pakistani hireling for 2,500 rupees, and tells that person to say what he wants to. He takes a tape recorder to that person and asks him to abuse (?the Islamic rule), and then asks him: What is your view about the present regime? And he curses all officials, great Afghan personalities, the Islamic regime's personalities, who have spent all their lives serving the jihad and knowledge, and insults them. [passage omitted]

We respect our scholars. We respect Mawlawi Tarakhel [famous religious scholar and supporter of Taleban] as a scholar for his knowledge. But as an expert on Afghanistan or as a politician, there is a big distance between Tarakhel and Afghanistan. But because Mawlawi Tarakhel does not observe the decency of language, because he curses, because he acts against the deeds of the Prophet, the hireling journalist takes his tape recorder to him for an interview. If you are a journalist, if you really speak in the interest of Afghanistan, there are many experts in Afghanistan whom you can interview. [passage omitted]

My Afghan brothers, you should determine your fate yourselves, as Iqbal says. The protection of national independence is your duty. If you decide, the God will help you. National independence, the homeland, Islam are the graces of God and their protection is the duty of every one of us. We hope that as a result of the new developments — now that the armed forces of the Islamic State of Afghanistan are ready to enter the offensive stage, we notice military developments in the interest of the people and the Islamic sovereignty and for repelling and defeating the enemy conspiracies. We hope that very soon permanent peace, national independence, Islamic sovereignty, and the Islamic regime will be ensured and consolidated in our country. Peace be upon you. [end recording]

India

Minister Criticizes U.S. for 'Arming' Pakistan

BK2410094995 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 24 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The home minister has warned Pakistan against any evil designs on India's territory. Addressing the jawans [soldiers] of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police on its 31st raising day in New Delhi today, he said India will give a fitting reply if attacked.

Mr. Chavan, criticizing the United States for arming Islamabad, said that Washington's help to Pakistan is illogical as it is abetting terrorism in neighboring countries. He also alleged that Pakistan is interfering in Afghanistan in violation of international conventions. Mr. Chavan also gave away medals, commendation certificates, and insignias to officers and personnel for their meritorious service.

Editorial Comments on Textiles Dispute With U.S.

BK1910083895 Delhi THE PIONEER in English 18 Oct 95 p 8

[Editorial: "A Telling Commentary"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Textiles Minister, Mr Kamal Nath's announcement at a press conference on Monday [16 October] that India would shortly be filing a review petition before the textile monitoring body (TMB) of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), but at the same time try and independently negotiate with the United States (which is the other party to the dispute) is a telling commentary on how effectively or ineffectively multilateralism is working. It is no accident that Mr Nath was quick to clarify that India would not immediately be taking recourse to the dispute settlement mechanism of the WTO. On the contrary, it fits very much into the pattern that characterises dealings between the U.S. and constituents of the developing world, the existence of a multilateral body like the WTO notwithstanding.

At the time when the Indian Government's decision to sign the deal struck in the Uruguay Round of trade negotiations under the aegis of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT)—the forerunner of what is now the WTO—was being attacked by critics in the Opposition and elsewhere, the Government had one overriding argument that was regarded as a discussion-stopper. The crux of the argument was that no matter how uneven the multilateral framework might be, it afforded developing countries like India a much better platform for bargaining with the powerful developed world than bilateral negotiation ever could. While there is no quarrel with the broad spirit of this argument,

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that matters are not quite as simple in the real world is increasingly becoming apparent. Mr Nath's latest statement on the ongoing textile dispute with the U.S. only confirms the impression that India may often be forced to settle disputes bilaterally rather than multilaterally.

This episode also draws attention to the fact that the supposed neutrality of the WTO and hence of its dispute settlement mechanism provides no guarantee that India's grievances will be taken up and dealt with to its satisfaction. It is after all, the experience of the earlier ruling of the TMB which forced India to seek to "persuade" the U.S.. There is also an apparent contradiction in what Mr Nath has claimed would be the grounds on which the U.S. could be persuaded and the claims being made from other Government platforms about the potential of textile exports to the U.S.. Mr Nath has suggested that the U.S. could be persuaded that the items undertaken for exports are small in numbers and hence will not hurt U.S. manufacturers. How does one square this with the claim that removal of such quantitative barriers could do wonders for our exports to the U.S.? The answer should be interesting.

Prime Minister Rao Visits New York, UN

Comments on Economic Reforms

BK2210114495 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 22 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The prime minister says there is a stability of economic policy in India and reforms will continue irrespective of the party in power. Speaking at a reception hosted by the Indian community in New York, Mr. Narasimha Rao pointed out that the states where opposition parties are in power are also implementing the economic reforms and taking advantage of them. He asked the Indian community abroad to continue their contribution to India and not get worried about problems like terrorism. The prime minister said India is sensitive to human rights protection and it has established the National Human Rights Commission, although it has to combat terrorism.

On Indo-U.S. relations, Mr. Rao said that the United States has been an economic partner of India for a long time. The expansion of cooperation in the last couple of years is unprecedented, he added.

Meets Leaders, Calls For Weapons Ban

BK2310042595 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 23 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India and France have agreed to identify certain areas to expand bilateral trade and commerce. During their meeting in the United Nations at New York, the prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, pointed out to the French president, Mr. Jacques Chirac, that Indo-French economic ties are not being fully tapped. Mr. Rao reiterated India's position on a complete ban on production and elimination of weapons of mass destruction. Mr. Rao also informed Mr. Chirac that the spillover of the Afghanistan problem in other parts of Asia is very much feared.

In his meeting with the Chinese president, Mr. Jiang Zemin, the prime minister pointed out the need for making the Security Council more representative.

Mr. Narasimha Rao also had a meeting with the Russian president, Mr. Boris Yeltsin. Briefing newsmen in New York, an official spokesman said the two leaders expressed satisfaction at the meetings of the Indo-Russian Joint Commission.

Radio Reports on New York Talks

BK2410053495 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 24 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The prime minister has had bilateral talks with several world leaders who have gathered in New York. Briefing newsmen, an Indian official said during his meeting with the British prime minister, Mr. John Major, Indo-British relations were reviewed. Mr. Major said that he will visit New Delhi on his way to New Zealand to attend CHOGM [Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting] next month.

The Sri Lankan president, Ms. Chandrika Kumaratunga, informed Mr. Narasimha Rao of the measures taken by her government to ensure the safety of Indian fishermen. Mr. Rao also held a meeting with the Afghan foreign minister.

The prime minister felicitated the Indian community on Dipawali [Hindu religious festival]. He unveiled the portrait of Mahatma Gandhi on the occasion. Our special correspondent P.J.S. Trehan reports that a large number of men and women of Indian origin in colorful dresses were present at the Dipawali function and exchanged greetings with the prime minister.

Mr. Narasimha Rao held a luncheon meeting with a group of top American companies in New York yesterday. Mr. Narasimha Rao told the industrialists of the broad support to the flow of investments into India from across the political spectrum in the country. In this connection, he cited the example of various chief ministers from different political parties touring foreign countries for scouting investments. Mr. Rao pointed out that economic reforms have enabled the government to initiate several programs for the poor. An official

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spokesman said that the American industrialists were not worried about the Enron controversy.

Commentary Hails 'Victory' Over Pakistan at NAM

BK2110134795 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 21 Oct 95

[Commentary by Yash Narain Roy]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Cartagena summit of the Nonaligned Movement, NAM, attended by 113 countries has dispelled all doubts about the relevance and capacity of the movement to act in the changing global scenario. All global movements passed through ups and downs and each discovers its own remedy. NAM today may look subdued, but there is a consensus to keep the spirit of the movement alive in the changing global context. NAM summit today has become more businesslike as some of the lavish trappings associated with the summit have rightly been abandoned.

India has reasons to be happy with the final declaration of the Catagena summit. To a great extent, the document reflects the Indian view on the present global situation. However, India's biggest diplomatic victory was achieved when it frustrated Pakistan's game plan to seek mediation in Kashmir. Islamabad has been campaigning feverishly for some time to change the provision which bars the discussion of contentious problems and bilateral disputes. It somehow found a place in the Jakarta declaration three years ago.

Earlier, Prime Minister Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao snubbed Ms. Benazir Bhutto for raising the Kashmir issue. Since Prime Minister Rao came to speak only 20 minutes after Ms. Bhutto spoke, he not only hit back hard but also stated the Indian stand forcefully. He asked Pakistan to vacate its illegal occupation over a part of the state of Jammu and Kashmir. Mr. Rao also dwelt on nuclear disarmament, UN reform, relevance of NAM in the changed global context, and the process of globalization. Mr. Rao reiterated India's stand on complete elimination of nuclear weapons. The Cartagena summit's call for general universal disarmament marked another victory for India. Mr. Rao's exuberance of confidence about NAM to work as a medium to help the world's poor was shared widely by other heads of state or government. We must get away from the psychology of helplessness, the prime minister said. The solution, as Mr. Rao said, lay in, what he called, the market plus approach which would combine the forces of the market economy with the imperatives of social justice.

An appeal from Colombia has called for the reform of international financial institutions like the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. This is indeed quite significant. The global change in the post Cold War era has produced an anomalous situation for the developing world. The developing world's need for aid is being met with aid fatigue in the north. In fact, the growing protectionism in the developed world seems to be directed against items of special importance to the south. The reform in the international financial institutions is the need of the hour. No part of the developing world has suffered more than Latin America on account of the debt explosion. The [word indistinct] is, however, emerging from the debt crisis and the way Latin America is handling its economy underscores the fact that there is life after debt after all. Colombia's suggestion, therefore, that the multilateral debts of low income developing countries be written off, makes a lot of sense.

It is true that NAM, which represents about two thirds of the world population, does not have a commensurate voice in world affairs. It is also only natural to have some self-questioning about the role and scope of NAM in a world which is substantially different from 1961. But some of the limitations of NAM are embedded in the very size and composition of the movement. Nonalignment is not only a movement but also a doctrine, a diplomatic tool, and a foreign policy orientation. As the Cartagena summit has amply demonstrated, NAM has an important role to play for promoting South-South cooperation, human rights, protection of environment, avoidance of militarism and arms race, and the strengthening of international institutions.

Agricultural Cooperation Accord Signed With Russia

BK2010102395 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 20 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India and Russia have agreed to cooperate in the field of agriculture and related subjects. An agreement to this effect was signed between the Indian Council of Agriculture Research and the Russian Academy of Agriculture Sciences in New Delhi today. The two countries will cooperate in testing and utilization of plant genetic resources, selection and breeding of grains, oil crops, and ornamental crops.

Security Forces Kill 5 Kashmir 'Militants'

BK2210161695 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 22 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In the Kashmir Valley, five militants were killed in Kupwara in a fierce encounter with the security forces last evening. A large quantity of arms and ammunition was recovered from the site of the encounter.

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[Hong Kong AFP in English at 1125 GMT on 22 October, datelined Srinigar adds the following: Five Indian soldiers were killed in Kashmir Sunday [22 October] when a land mine detonated by Muslim separatists blew up their vehicle, police said here.

Five other soldiers were injured in the explosion at Pattan, 27 kilometers (16 miles) north of here, triggering a massive army swoop during which at least five suspects were detained.

"We have no further details," a police officer said in this summer capital of Kashmir, where more than 12,000 people have been killed, by official count, in a bloody Muslim separatist campaign since 1989.

Earlier, hundreds of Muslims attacked Indian troops and pickets in the thickly-populated Maisuma district here after two leaders of Kashmir's premier separatist group were arrested, police and residents said.

Young men stoned troops after Yaseen Malik and Javed Mir of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) were arrested while proceeding to the town of Bijbehara for a remembrance service for 40 civilians massacred by troops two years ago.

The police said the two were arrested on Srinagar's outskirts. As the news spread, angry JKLF activists attacked the security forces at Maisuma, where the charismatic Malik lives. Troops used batons to disperse the protestors.

The violence came as Srinagar and neighbouring towns were paralysed by a strike called by a Muslim group, the People's League, to protest alleged Indian atrocities.

The strike shut shops and businesses across the troubled Kashmir Valley. Scattered civilian traffic was however seen in Srinagar, a Muslim-majority city of 800,000 people.

The JKLF, founded in 1966, is the most popular of several Muslim groups fighting to end Indian rule over Kashmir, the only Muslim- majority state in the Hindu-dominated country.]

Kidnapped Foreign Tourists in Kashmir Reported Safe

BK2210095695 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 22 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Kashmir, the four foreign tourists held in captivity for nearly three and half months by the Al-Faran militant group are reported to be safe. The state governor's adviser, Mr. D.D. Saklani, told reporters in Srinagar that the government is hopeful that the kidnappers will set them free without any harm.

Hostages Said Sighted; American Sick

BK2210093995 Hong Kong AFP in English 0456 GMT 22 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Ladru, India, Oct 22 (AFP) — Four Western tourists abducted by Muslim guerrillas in Kashmir more than 100 days ago have been seen by villagers in a mountainous area of the Himalayan province.

Britons Paul Wells, Keith Mangan and German Dirk Hasert seemed tired but otherwise healthy while American Donald Hutchings, was limping, a group of villagers here told AFP.

Hutchings, 42, had a crepe bandage on his left foot and was finding it difficult to keep pace with the other three and about 100 gunmen, who are moving them from one hideout to another, the Muslim villagers said.

"They seem hale and hearty except for the American," said a shepherd who saw them at Ladru, a small sleepy village of 100 houses nestling in pine trees some 90 kilometers (56 miles) south of Srinagar.

Their sighting a week ago has prompted a search by hundreds of Indian troops here and in neighbouring villages. Soldiers were searching buses and other vehicles and put up drop gates on the winding roads and hair-pin bends.

An AFP correspondent who reached Ladru after trekking two kilometres (1.25 miles) from the nearest road was told by army sources that at least three suspects had been interrogated.

An intelligence officer said Hutchings was probably suffering from frostbite. "He requires medical attention as he cannot keep pace with the other captives," the source said.

Few villagers were willing to talk about the Western hostages and their captors, from the militant Al-Faran group. Indian officials said Al-Faran members are mainly Afghan mercenaries.

Abdul Rashid Wani, a local guide, said: "Three of the foreigners were wearing camouflage uniforms and Kashmiri gowns on top. They were being escorted by at least 50 gunmen who did not talk to the locals."

Mohammad Ashraf, a medic, said unidentified men bought pain- killers and antibiotics from him recently.

Wells, 23, Mangan, 33, Hutchings and a second American, John Childs, were kidnapped by Muslim militants from the mountain resort of Pahalgam, barely five kilometers (three miles) away, on July 4 while they were trekking.

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The German was seized four days later along with a Norwegian, Hans-Christian Ostro, after Childs escaped. Ostro was murdered by the group in August.

Al-Faran is demanding the release of 15 colleagues from Indian prisons but New Delhi has refused to meet the demand, and has urged the group resume talks with officials and mediators, which it suspended on September 19.

Villagers said the army had interrogated Farooq Ahmed, a bus driver who drove the hostages and their captors from one village to another, and two local boys who had acted as guides to the militants.

Troops were looking for the driver of a truck which reportedly carried the group from Ladru to a neighbouring village, from where the hostages and gunmen trekked towards mountains.

"We get a lot of information, but unfortunately it is almost invariably two days late," said an army officer. Another officer added: "We have some reports, but I cannot share them with you."

"We do know that two local boys are assisting Al-Faran," he added.

The army says it has been ordered by New Delhi not to look for the Westerners and their captors to ensure the foreigners' safety. Nevertheless, soldiers here appeared to be looking for them.

The army sweep has prompted scores of males to flee Ladru and neighbouring areas, fearing they will be interrogated.

On Saturday [21 October], a Kashmir official said efforts to secure the release of the hostages was continuing. Muslim separatists accuse India of orchestrating the abductions to belittle their cause.

Official Comments on Efforts To Free Hostages

BK2110123395 Hong Kong AFP in English
1145 GMT 21 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] NEW DELHI, Oct 21 (AFP) — Indian authorities are making efforts to secure the early release of four Western hostages seized by Muslim militants more than 100 days ago in Kashmir, an official said Saturday [21 October].

"There is no let up in efforts to secure their safe release," the Press Trust of India (PTI) quoted an advisor to Kashmir Governor K.V. Krishna Rao as saying in Srinagar, the state's summer capital.

But D.D. Saklani, the advisor, declined to say when the crisis would end.

The militant Al-Faran group abducted Britons Paul Wells and Keith Mangan and American Donald Hutchings from Kashmir's mountainous district of Pahalgam on July 4. German Derk Hasert was seized four days later.

A fifth hostage, Norwegian Hans-Christian Ostro, who was kidnapped along with the German, was murdered by the abductors in August.

Kashmir's authorities have had no contact with Al-Faran since September 19. Salanki said the government hoped the militants would resume the dialogue soon.

The kidnappers are demanding the release of 15 jailed colleagues in exchange for the foreigners. India has refused to concede the demand.

On Thursday, a Kashmiri newspaper quoted a group of villagers as saying that they had sighted the hostages at a village in the southern Kashmir district of Anantnag. All four appeared to be in good health.

Muslim militants in Kashmir have frequently kidnapped Indians and foreigners to demand the release of jailed rebels and to focus world attention on their struggle.

More than 12,000 people have died in the Kashmir separatist drive since 1989.

Iran

Velayati Holds Talks With Foreign Officials at UN

LD2310115495 Tehran IRNA in English
1005 GMT 23 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] United Nations HQ., New York, Oct. 23, IRNA — Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati here Sunday [22 October] reviewed major international developments and bilateral relations with a number of high-ranking officials from different countries on the sidelines of the special ceremony held on the occasion of the United Nations' 50th anniversary.

In a meeting with Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan, Velayati expressed hope that with the settlement of conflict in the Karabakh region through peaceful negotiations, and following the establishment of a just peace in the region, bilateral cooperation would be promoted.

Referring to the establishment of the Mashhad-Sarakhs railways, he termed the recently established trilateral cooperation between Iran, Armenia and Turkmenistan as successful.

Outlining the situation in the Karabakh region as well as the latest developments in Yerevan-Baku relations, Ter-Petrosyan called for the strengthening of mutual ties.

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In another development, Velayati met with Slovenian President Milan Kucan and underlined the need of supporting Muslim Bosnians to achieve their rights.

He expressed hope that the current efforts to establish peace in that republic would not lead to the granting of consessions to the aggressor.

During the meeting, both Velayati and Kucan announced their satisfaction over the improving trend of bilateral relations. The two officials reviewed the latest Bosnian developments as well as other issues related to the Balkan region.

Meanwhile, Portugese President Mario Soares welcomed the expansion of mutual cooperation with Iran.

Referring to the existing bilateral cooperation especially in the economic arena, Velayati said that he considered Iran's relations with European states, particularly Portugal, as useful.

Soares then expressed hope that the Islamic Republic would take part in the international marine exhibition to be held in his country in 1998.

In his separate meeting with Senegal's Premier Habib Thiam, the consequences of the last non-aligned summit meeting including the renovation of the U.N. structure were discussed.

Bilateral ties and practical ways for further promoting relations were among the major topics discussed by the two officials.

Velayati also extended the invitation of Iranian Vice-President Hassan Habibi to Thiam for a visit to the Islamic Republic.

In separate meetings between Velayati and his counterparts from Ukraine and Guinea, mutual ties as well as major regional developments were reviewed.

Meets With Tajikistan President

LD2210222395 Tehran IRNA in English
2217 GMT 22 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] United Nations, New York, N.Y. Tehran, Oct. 22, IRNA — Iran's Foreign Minister, 'Ali Akbar Velayati, and President of Tajikistan, Emomali Rakhmanov, here Sunday [22 October] reviewed Iran, Tajikistan relations and voiced their mutual interest in devlopment their national ties.

The Iranian official and the president of Tajikistan agreed that current talks between the Tajik government and various groups in that country should continue.

Discusses Bosnia With Croatia's Tudjman

LD2310221795 Tehran IRNA in English
2208 GMT 23 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] United Nations HQ. (New York), IRNA — Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati discussed developments in Bosnia with Croatian President Franjo Tudjman here today.

In the meeting which was held on the sidelines of the special UN celebrations marking the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the world body, Velayati said Iran was peace in the Balkans [as received], and assured Tudjman of the Islamic Republic's support for the coordination of efforts between croatia and bosnia against serb expansionism.

The Croatian head of state said Zagreb enjoys excellent relations with Tehran and was for further promotion of bilateral ties.

Later in the day, the Iranian foreign minister had a meeting with Austrian President, Thomas Klestil, and exchanged views on bilateral relations as well as the latest developments in Bosnia.

Klestil said he was looking forward to the scheduled visit to Vienna of Iranian Majles Speaker 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri.

Velayati also had separate meetings on Monday [23 October] with his counterparts from Spain and South Korea, with issues of mutual interest coming up for discussion.

Radio: Clinton Fails To Stop Russian Nuclear Ties

LD2410120895 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian
1058 GMT 24 Oct 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful. Greetings dear listeners; let me draw your attention to today's political commentaries:

Bill Clinton and Boris Yeltsin, the presidents of the United States and Russia, met yesterday on the sidelines of the 50th anniversary ceremonies at the United Nations in New York. It is reported that at the meeting, the presidents of the United States and Russia discussed various issues, including nuclear cooperation between Iran and Russia, the deployment of peacekeeping forces in Bosnia, nuclear disarmament and, finally, the expansion of NATO in Eastern Europe.

Although, at the end of their meeting, the two sides spoke of the notable success of their discussions on

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peace in Bosnia and issues relating to the reduction of nuclear weapons, nevertheless, as expected, no mention was made about the outcome of the discussion by the two countries' presidents about peaceful nuclear cooperation between Iran and Russia. Political analysts see this as an indication of the White House's failure to persuade Russia to halt cooperation with Iran; otherwise, the White House would have embarked once again on extensive propaganda about another victory in bringing Russia into line with itself on halting cooperation with Iran.

In fact, most political observers predicted that Washington's new effort to dissuade Russia on nuclear cooperation with Iran would meet with defeat because, even on the eve of the meeting, nearly all senior Russian officials who are directly involved in this issue were stressing the Russian Government's strong resolve to cooperate with Iran on the completion of nuclear power stations and were calling for the continuation of this cooperation. The peaceful nature of this cooperation has also been repeatedly underlined by both the Russian Government and the officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the International Atomic Energy Agency has also repeatedly confirmed this.

The shared viewpoint of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Russia with regard to the peaceful nature of their cooperation and their mutual interest in this cooperation will prevent the White House from achieving any success in impeding this cooperation with its hollow and spiteful propaganda.

Radio Cites Article on Political Crisis in Turkey

NC2010182495 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Turkish 1630 GMT 19 Oct 95

[From the "Iranian Press Review"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dear listeners, we want to present an article JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI has published on developments in Turkey. It says that the crisis in Turkey cannot be described as a situation which concerns only the government and the political field. It notes: A serious crisis exists in Turkey's social structure, the political confusion is only a part of it, and the problems in various fields are like an iceberg, with only a small part visible above water.

The article also notes: The ruling circles are trying to conceal the corruption in Turkey, hoping that they will be able to maintain their position in power. However, they are aware that the structure will collapse. That is why they try to conceal developments.

The article says that the situation in Turkey shows that everything is done to fulfill the Western world's instructions, orders, and directives so that the country can be governed by the West and that the officials seem prepared to make every concession for that purpose. Drawing attention to the fact that pro-Western policies in Turkey have begun to yield very bitter fruits, the article stresses that the way out of the crisis should be looked for in chants of God is One and God is Great, chants which were cried outloud by millions of black people in the capital of the Satanic Empire the day before yesterday. The paper notes: Even the non-Islamic black people in the United States have begun to realize this. The Islamic people in Turkey strongly believe this. However, an effort is being made by the oligarchic and so-called intellectual circles, who have weakened their country because of their pro- Western policies, to have this reality ignored. Nevertheless, the Islamic people in Turkey want to live in a way which befits their honor, dignity, and faith, knowing well that they will suffer from material problems. Obviously, they are prepared to pay the cost of their approach in other stages of their struggle.

Velayati Meets Foreign Officials During NAM Summit

LD2010202495 Tehran IRNA in English 1421 GMT 20 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct. 20, IRNA — Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati in Colombia on Thursday [19 October] met and conferred with a number of top officials from other countries on the sidelines of the 11th Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) summit meet, being held in Cartagena october 14 through 20.

In a meeting with Velayati, vice-president of Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), Pak Songchol, considered the mutual relations and cooperation in matters related to international diplomacy between Tehran-Pyongyang constructive and highly valuable.

Pak briefed Velayati on latest developments and unheavals on the unity talks of two Koreas. The Iranian foreign minister said that Iran welcomed the idea of a unity between the two countries.

In another meeting, Philippino President Fidel Ramos expressed satisfaction with the recent official visit made by President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani to the Philippines.

Ramos emphasized a continuation of constructive relations and strengthening of ties between the two countries and expected a boost up in the transaction of oil and petrochemical products from Iran.

Referring to latest developments in Muslims' autonomous talks south of the Philippines, he considered

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Iran's support for the talks as an important factor in the achievement of their progress.

Velayati for his part welcomed an expansion of bilateral ties and, referring to recent visit to Tehran of Philippino parliament speaker, Jose Devenecia, and energy minister, Francisco Viray, expressed hope that practical steps would be taken for the promotion of bilateral relations in light of the agreements reached during Rafsanjani's visit to that country.

In yet another meeting, the vice-president of Yemen praised Iran on its principled stand about the unity of the two Yemens, which he said, "we will never forget".

He called the traditional ties between Tehran and Sanaa to be old, adding that the Islamic Republic of Iran has a prominent and constructive role to play in the region due to the sensitive nature of the new development taking shape in the area, which his country followed with particular interest. He also stressed the need for yet closer cooperation between the countries in the region.

Also referring to the need for activating Tehran-Sanaa joint economic commission in order to bring about trade and economic cooperation, the Yemeni official called for Iran's contribution into reconstruction program of his country.

Velayati in return indicated Iran's support for the reunification of two Yemens, adding that practical measures had to be taken to raise the bilateral ties to an acceptable level compatible with current potentialities which would benefit the two countries.

In another meeting, Velayati and Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto stressed the need for expanding and strengthening bilateral ties and cooperation in various fields.

They also exchanged views on the regional issues and her immineat visit to Tehran.

Yet in another meeting, Velayati and Maghrebi premier and foreign affairs minister, Abdellatif Filali, studied the latest development in bilateral relations between the two countries.

In this meeting, the two sides discussed current developments in Bosnia concernig ceasefire. They stressed on the need for continued and intensified efforts by the Organization of Islamic Conference's (OIC) contact group with an aim of studying new developments taking shape in the Balkans.

Maghreb is now the rotary chairman of the OIC.

Acting foreign minister and minister for international development cooperation and human rights issues of Sweden, Jan Eliasson and Velayati exchanged views on the continued cooperation and dialog between Iran and Europe in their meeting in Cartagena on Thursday.

Eliasson termed Tehran-Stockholm ties to be satisfactory and the cooperation between the two countries at the United Nation's level constructive.

The two parties considered the seminars held on Islam and Christianity and the exchange of dialogs between the divine religions very beneficial.

In his meeting with Croatian premier and foreign affairs minister, Mate Granic, expressed satisfaction with bolstering of ties between Tehran-Zagreb and multilateral cooperation in the Balkans.

Granic also fully briefed Velayati on latest developments in the area specifically the Bosnia, concerning ceasefire, and the peace process.

"Tehran-Zagreb cooperation is progressing well and this is very important for us," announced the Croatian official.

In another meeting, Velayati and Mozambican President Chissano discussed promotion of Tehran-Maputo ties in view of Iranian foreign minister's recent visit to Mozambique.

Velayati expressed satisfaction with outcome of his recent visit to Mozambique and emphasized the need for the expansion and further promotion of Tehran-Maputo ties in accordance with their potentials and available possibilities in various spheres.

In another meeting, head of World Health Organization (WHO) Dr. Nacajima and Velayati held talks on WHO's activities in various parts of the world.

Nacajima at the meeting thanked and lauded Iran's "good and positive" cooperation with WHO.

And finally, in his meeting with Namibian foreign minister, Velayati was briefed on latest developments in Africa and political situation in Namibia.

Among other topic discussed at this meeting were Namibia's making use of Iran as a bridge due to its strategic geopolitical condition to gain access to Central Asia and the Caucasus. They also discussed the possibility of a regional cooperation with Africa.

In addition, they exchanged views on the importance of NAM and underlined the need to strength its role in the international arena. The Namibian minister underlined Iran's important role at the international level.

Velayati described Iran's relations with Namibian nation as old and expressed satisfaction with progress in the expansion of bilateral relations.

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Meets With Pakistan's Bhutto

LD2010214695 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2030 GMT 20 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In a meeting between Foreign Minister Velayati and Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, held on the sidelines of the Non- Aligned Movement Summit Meeting in Colombia, the imminent visit to Iran by the Pakistani premier was discussed as well as issues of mutual interest. [passage omitted]

Meets Colombian President Samper

LD2110085695 Tehran IRNA in English 0742 GMT 21 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct. 21, IRNA — Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati met and conferred with Colombian President Ernesto Samper in Colombia on Friday [20 October] on the sidelines of the 11th Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) summit conference, held in Cartagena on October 14-20.

At the meeting, Samper called for the expansion of Tehran-Bogota ties, especially in the field of mutual economic cooperation.

He added that commercial collaboration between the two states should be strengthened and bilateral transactions should be upgraded.

He said that the establishment of links with Central Asian and the Caucasus republics via the Islamic Republic was "very important" in view of the special and unique condition of Iran.

Velayati in turn called the prospects of mutual ties as "very optimistic" and noted that these should be expanded and cemented in various areas.

As for Colombia's cooperation with Central Asia and the Caucasus, Velayati said there were facilities in Iran, including its railway connections, that promises easy access of the republics with any other country.

The two officials also exchanged views on ways of strengthening NAM and underscored the need for exploring avenues for bilateral relations.

In another meeting, the Bahraini labor and social affairs minister and Velayati exchanged views on Tehran-Manama ties, economic and commercial cooperation and regional issues.

The Iranian foreign minister, in referring to "favorable" bilateral ties, the exchange of delegations and to increasing Tehran-Manama air links, said that mutual relations as well as commercial and economic cooperation still offers a lot of room for expansion.

The Bahraini minister underlined the need for consolidation of ties between the two neighboring states in the region and said bilateral economic and commercial cooperation should be bolstered.

In a separate discussion, Velayati and Tunisian Foreign Affairs Minister Habib Ben Yahia exchanged views regarding the promotion of Tehran-Tunis ties.

Yahia at the meeting announced his readiness to pay a visit to Tehran.

Velayati for his part termed the proposed visit as being an "important" measure for the furthering of relations.

Velayati's View of 'Successful' NAM Summit Reported

LD2110083395 Tehran IRNA in English 0801 GMT 21 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cartagena, Oct. 21, IRNA — Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati noted the achievements of the 11th Non-Aligned Movement [NAM] summit meeting as having been more successful than what was expected.

At the end of the NAM conference held in Colombia on October 14- 20 Velayati, prior to his departure for New York, stressed that one of the meeting's positive points was that it was held in Latin America, which was one of the weakest chains in the link of NAM countries in the last few years.

He added that the sixth summit was held in Cuba, the seventh in Asia, the eighth in Africa, the nineth in Europe and the tenth in Asia again when it should have been held in Latin America.

Efforts made by influential states including the Islamic Republic of Iran, Indonesia and India, led to the holding of the meeting in Colombia, he underlined.

He stated that the profound review of international developments including those that pertained to human rights, disarmament and the issue of terrorism, was another positive outcome of the summit.

Another major achievement of the meeting was the effective and constructive discussion focusing on the renovation of the United Nation's structure and this issue will be followed up during the special ceremony to be held on the occasion of the United Nations' 50th anniversary, the Iranian minister said.

Velayati and his accompanying delegation left here Friday [20 October] for New York to attend the ceremonies marking the United Nation's golden anniversary.

He is due to deliver a speech at the U.N. confab outlining the Islamic republic's stance regarding major

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international developments as well as its views about the need for an overhaul of the U.N. Organization.

Velayati Comments on Achievements

NC2110131195 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 21 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Dr. Velayati spoke to a Central News Unit correspondent after the 11th Non-Aligned Movement [NAM] session and described the uniqueness of this session. The foreign minister told our correspondent:

[Begin Velayati recording] This session was unique because it was held Latin America, which has been known as one of the weaker links in the NAM in the past few years. Another significant point was the in-depth and intensive assessment of international issues such as human rights, disarmament, and terrorism. These issues were tackled more specifically at the session.

The session's third achievement is the overall basic gains included in the deliberations and, finally, an effective and constructive outline for revamping the United Nations' structure. Please bear in mind that currently there is talk of increasing the permanent and temporary members of the Security Council.

In order to incorporate these changes in the UN Charter, we require a quorum of two-thirds of the votes in the UN General Assembly. In view of the fact that NAM members constitute approximately two-thirds of the United Nation's members, the importance of such coordination and cohesion in NAM members' stances is apparent. [end recording]

Our correspondent states: Dr. Velayati left Colombia last night for New York in order to participate in the 50th anniversary ceremonies of the United Nations.

Philippine Official Continues Visit to Tehran

Says U.S. Embargo Not Welcome

LD2210101495 Tehran IRNA in English 0947 GMT 22 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct. 22, IRNA — The speaker of the House of Representatives of the Philippine legislature, Jose de Venecia, said that his country does not welcome the U.S. trade embargo imposed against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Referring to the unilateral trade sanctions imposed by Washington against Tehran, De Venecia, in an interview printed in the Sunday [22 October] issue of the English-language daily 'TEHRAN TIMES', added that the Philippines backs Iran and will boycott the embargo.

Instead, he said, "We invite Iran to participate in the economic development of the Philippines."

De Venecia arrived Tuesday heading a high-ranking Filipino delegation and left Tehran for the Philippines on Thursday. He came to Iran at the invitation of Majles Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri.

Expressing hope that the Philippines could contribute to bringing political reconciliation between the U.S. and Iran, De Venecia added that an early end to the sanctions could further strengthen peace and unity in the region.

Asked to elucidate on the purpose of his trip, the Philippine official replied by saying, "President (Ramos) and I, in my capacity as speaker of the House, proposed the establishment of an oil refinery and a petrochemical complex in the southern part of the Philippines on a joint venture with Iran."

He added that President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani welcomed the proposed projects in talks with Filipino officials during his recent trip to that Asian country.

Referring to the Philippines as the world's second largest producer of geothermal power, De Venecia said that it is ready to help Iran develop its geothermal resources as a major area of cooperation.

He praised the Iranian president for his decision to visit the Philippines and dubbed the trip "a success". He referred to the seven economic agreements signed last week in Manila by the presidents of Iran and the Philippines.

Before departing from Iran, De Venecia and Nateq-Nuri signed an interparliamentary cooperation agreement between the Iranian parliament and the House of Representatives of the Philippine legislature.

Meanwhile, Philippine Energy Minister Francisco L. Viray, who accompanied De Venecia on this trip, said that he and Iranian Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh-Kho'i discussed matters intended to boost oil and petroleum relations between the two countries.

De Venecia, before leaving Tehran, invited Majles Speaker Nateq-Nuri to visit the Philippines, which the latter accepted, and lead a top-level Iranian delegation.

Ends 'Successful' Visit

LD2010201195 Tehran IRNA in English 1657 GMT 20 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct 20 (IRNA) — The visiting Philippine House Speaker Jose de Venecia and his accompanying delegation, wound up their three-day visit here and left Tehran Thursday [19 October].

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Venecia was seen off at the airport by his Iranian counterpart Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri.

The Philippine house speaker, prior to his departure, referred to President Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani's visit to the Philippines as successful and its outcome constructive.

During the three day official stay here, the Philippine delegation followed up the letters of understanding and economic accords signed by the presidents of the two countries when Rafsanjani was in Manila.

The parliamentary speaker also called his talks with Iranian officials as successful and again urged the formation of Irano- Filipino joint ventures for setting up oil refinery and petrochemical plants in the Phillippines.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Nateq-Nuri lauded his Philippine counterpart's visit here and welcomed promotion of ties between the parliaments of two countries.

He also said that parliamentary links would provide appropriate grounds for expansion of bilateral political, economic and cultural relations.

He further called the political relations between the two countries as acceptable and added that during the October visit by the Iranian president to the Philippines, the two sides concluded nine economic agreements in projects including setting up an oil refinery and a petrochemical plant in the Philippines.

Based on the ever expanding relations, the two house speakers later signed a letter of understanding concerning the establishment of the Association of Irano-Philippine Parliamentary Friendship Group.

The letter said: "Taking into consideration the ever growing relations between the two countries, the reciprocal state visits by the presidents of the two countries, signing of agreements in the fields of energy, motivation of investments, the protection of the capital in commercial shipping, technical cooperation, and finally inking the accords on transit of goods to central Asia, the speakers of the Islamic Consultative Assembly of the Islamic Republic of Iran and of the Philippine Parliament have agreed on establishing the Association of Parliamentary Friendship Group between the two countries."

It further said the Association of Irano-Philippine Parliamentary Friendship Group is to promote and consolidate the relations between the two countries.

Present at the farewell ceremony were Iranian Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh-Kho'i, Deputy Foreign Minister for Euro-American Affairs 'Ala'eddin Borujerdi, a number of Majles deputies and officials from the Iranian Embassy in Manila and Philippine Embassy in Tehran.

Ministry Official Denies Oil Dispute With Pretoria

LD2210120095 Tehran IRNA in English 1141 GMT 22 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct 22, IRNA — An Oil Ministry official on Sunday [22 October] refuted foreign media claims that there were disputes between Iran and South Africa over oil talks now in progress between the two countries.

Foreign media quoted the daily 'BUSINESS DAY' printed in South Africa as saying that an agreement reached between the two countries on storage of Iranian crude in South Africa and its sale on international markets was at stake following a dispute arising between them over their shares in oil sale revenues.

Rejecting any interruption in Tehran-Pretoria trade talks, Manager of International Affairs Department of the Oil Ministry B. Ghanimi-Fard stressed that there is no dispute between the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) and its South African partner.

He further underlined that the agreements reached between the two sides would be carried out in future.

According to the agreement, Iran may restore 22.5 million barrels of its oil in South Africa for export purposes.

Ayatollah Amoli Delivers Qom Friday Prayers

LD2110154895

[FBIS Editorial Report] Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian at 1423 GMT on 21 October broadcasts a 52-minute recording of Friday prayer sermons delivered by Ayatollah Javadi Amoli, a member of Assembly of Experts from Mazandaran Province, in Qom on 20 October. Reception is good.

Ayatollah Amoli begins his first sermon by urging his congregation to abide piety. He then embarks on a historical and religious journey, recalling, among other things, Imam Ali's humanity and chivalry in dealing with his enemies. The sermon ends at 1440 GMT.

At 1441 GMT, Amoli begins his second sermon. He once again recalls Imam Ali in recommending piety. He then deals with the week's important current affairs, beginning with Khamene'i's crucial visit to Mazandaran. The visit, he says, demonstrated the popularity of the leader, the awareness of the people, and the adroitness, farsightedness, and care of the leader. Moreover, the visit, he says, shows the goodness of Islam in worldly affairs and in ensuring one's future in the other world. He contends that the awareness of the Iranian nation is due to the presence of their clerics. Otherwise, other Muslims in other countries would have been just as

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aware and would have staged a similar revolution. So the people should give them their due respect. If other Muslims had such a thing as the Qom seminary and as the exalted Imam Khomeyni, they would have been as fortunate as the Iranian nation. It is the clerics who reach the innermost parts of the people and teach them even about themselves. The culture of the Koran teaches one what is what. The clerics are the conduit, so-to-speak, from the divine word to the heart of the people. He continues in this vain to underline the importance of visits, such as the one undertaken by Khamene'i, to make people understand, to guide them and to encourage them.

Javadi Amoli then says what goes on in the world is good news for the pious. A case in point is the disintegration of the former Soviet Union. God intervened there — that is why no one can claim to have had a hand in that. The million-strong demonstration by blacks, undertaken with chants of God is great, is another example. It is a sign of the collapse of the new world order in the United States, God willing, he says.

He touches on two more subjects: the Afghan crisis and the command referendum in Iraq.

A saint's birth anniversary and Sport Week — physical fitness is not as good as moral fitness — are his last subjects. Javadi Amoli then offers the usual prayers to end his sermons.

The second sermon ends at 1515 GMT.

Daily Addresses 'Incident' at Tehran University

NC2410090495 Tehran SALAM in Persian 14 Oct 95 p 2

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Islamic Society of Students of Tehran University's Technical Department issued a statement, which it sent to the newspaper, in relation to the incident during a speech by Dr. Sorush on Wednesday [11 October] at Shahid Chamran Hall of the university.

The statement says: Our entire efforts have been and are focused on how to carry out our duties. This may be to the dissatisfaction of some who beat us and insult the university, which is under protection throughout the world. But we are keeping a count of the slaps, beatings, and harassments and are listing them under the same category as the wounds inflicted on us and the bullets aimed at us by the Ba'thist enemy; and we will present all these on the day of final judgment.

The statement says that all the logical and wise people who were present at the gathering admit that the dispute and conflict was completely one-sided, with a group of uninformed friends on one side and the organizers of the meeting, who called for calm and a healthy cultural atmosphere for exchanging views, on the other. [passage omitted]

In conclusion, the statement says: In view of the incomplete and false reports that have been published about the incident in some of the newspapers, we have deemed it necessary to report on exactly what happened in order to clarify certain points for the public:

During the annual ideological-cultural programs of the Islamic Society of Students of Tehran University's Technical Department, Dr. Sorush was to speak at the first session of a series of discussions on the poet Mowlana on Wednesday, 19 Mehr 1374 [11 October 1995] at the Shahid Chamran Hall of the Technical Department. After the Ansar-e Hezbollah [friends of the Hezbollah] stated in their march on 16 Mehr 1374 [8 October 1995] that they would prevent this session from taking place, an official of the Ansar-e Hezbollah was invited by a number of combatant students of the Technical Department to go the offices of the Islamic Society for talks. Following five hours of discussions, it was decided that the Islamic Society would organize meetings in which opponents of Dr. Sorush would also be granted the opportunity to speak and that a tense atmosphere with the Ansar-e Hezbollah would be avoided.

At about 1500 on Wednesday, on orders of the Technical Department's officials and the university's law-enforcement body, and contrary to the views of the Islamic Society, the university guard prevented persons who did not hold a student card (from any of the universities in the country) to enter the compound. As a result, a group of (non-student) opponents organized a gathering outside the university grounds, thus increasing the feelings of rage. As Dr. Sorush was entering the university from the main gate, he was attacked by all those who had gathered outside the university and who were using the slogan of "death the anti-Velayat-e Faqih [the supreme leader]" as their shield. A number of students tried to protect him and accompanied him to the hall. Upon Dr. Sorush's arrival in the amphitheater, the crowd there started to applaud, following which—at the request of the head of the Islamic Society, who said that the event coincided with the days of mourning on the anniversary of the death of Fatemeh, the daughter of the Prophet— the audience refrained from applauding until the end of the event.

After Dr. Sorush's arrival in the hall, the attack by the encroachers of freedom of speech started from the main gate of the ladies' hall. The clashes (one-sided attacks) were so strong that none of the sisters present felt secure and, fearing that they may be attacked, they sought refuge under the walls of the amphitheater. The sisters,

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who had not seen anything like this before, were crying out of fear and concern. The audience then started to shout protests against the assailants with the slogan of "death to fascism." The assailants then started to hurl desks and chairs at Dr. Sorush, tore his notes with quotes from the martyr Motahhari, and set up the emblem of their weekly. Dr. Sorush was then accompanied by students out of the amphitheater amidst protests against the ministry of interior officials for not having taken measures for Dr. Sorush's physical safety.

The assailants then started harassing the students and members of the Islamic Society, and destroyed audio and other equipment of the amphitheater. Meanwhile, in answer to the call by the representative of the Islamic Society on the audience to display self-restraint, none of the students entered the fight and only stood there to be kicked and punched by the assailants.

Then, one of the organizers of the event called on the students to stay calm and to listen to what one of the assailants had to say. Mr. Dehnamaki, one of the leaders of the assailants, then took the loudspeaker in his hand and called for a debate session with Dr. Sorush and stated that henceforth they would prevent him from speaking to any audience anywhere in Iran. He added: We have not come here to upset the session. We have come here to conduct a debate with him. While he was speaking, the students were being continuously beaten and insulted by members of the Ansar-e Hezbollah.

After a while, relative calm was established and, according to the program, one of the brothers started citing Koranic verses and an elegy for Zahra, peace be upon her. Then, the representatives of the Islamic Society expressed condolences on the anniversary of the death of the Prophet's daughter and went on to refer to the bright record of the society and stated that the university tribune defends the principles and aspirations of the Islamic Revolution and is a place where differing views are expressed in order to enlighten public opinion in the Islamic society and that the fact that all ideas are expressed does not mean that they are accepted. He added that the Islamic Society has always supported efforts to create favorable grounds for the exchange of views within the framework of an open cultural atmosphere on the basis of religious norms and the constitution, adding that in view of the tension that rules over the current event and in view of the interests of the divine Islamic system, he wanted the audience to display calm and self-restraint. He then said that in view of the situation, he did not consider the atmosphere to be right for him to continue his speech and announced the closing of the event.

Suddenly, the leader of the assailants attacked the speaker and the tribune, started to beat and insult him, shouting that he disagreed. And this was at a time when the continuation of the program under such circumstances could have had unpredictable and unfavorable consequences. At this point, the crowd started to leave the hall at the request of the brothers of the Islamic Society.

The assailants then rushed up to the scene of the amphitheater and started to beat their chests and chant threnodies. What saddened the audience most was the fact that the assailants used the sacred name of Zahra, peace be upon her, as their shield and uttered words which we are ashamed to repeat here.

The calm exit of the audience added upon the rage of the assailants, and after most of the students had left, the assailants attacked the offices of the Islamic Council, harassed the students, and left the premises in shambles. Of course all these were coupled with aspersions. It should be noted that the assailants remained on the university premises until late into the night.

Opposition Radio Reports on Protests in 2 Cities

NC2310141795 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1305 GMT 23 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 23 Oct (MENA)—Reports from Iran say wide-scale confrontations and clashes took place in the Iranian cities of Karaj and Hamadan during demonstrations that erupted this morning to protest an increase in transport rates in the two cities.

The Voice of Mojahed radio, speaking for the Iranian opposition Mojahedin-e Khalq group, said in a report monitored in Baghdad this afternoon that demonstrators in the two cities, estimated at several thousand, clashed with Iranian Revolutionary Guards units, and that an unspecified number of people were injured in the demonstrations, which are still continuing.

The radio said the Iranian authorities later sent Revolutionary Guards reinforcements to the two cities to control the situation and prevent the demonstrations from spreading.

The radio said the demonstrators are demanding that the new increase in transport fees be canceled.

It said the demonstrators are chanting slogans hostile to President Hashemi-Rafsanjani and spiritual leader 'Ali Khamene'i.

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Deputy Minister on Electricity Privatization Plan

NC1810131195 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 18 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Energy Ministry has called on the private sector to invest in the construction of power plants and to participate in the management of the country's electricity industry. Deputy Energy Minister Mallaki spoke to our correspondent on how the private sector can participate in the management of the country's electricity supply and said:

[Begin recording] [Mallaki] Privatization of the country's electricity industry was not and is not what the word privatization may connote. What the Ministry of Energy had and has in mind is to hand over the management of this field to the private sector, while the ownership of the facilities and the supervision of the management at the facilities will be in the hands of the government and the companies affiliated with it; and through this, the government can exercise the control needed to improve and increase output. Since non-governmental companies will be assuming the management responsibilities, they too can make better use of the installations in view of the incentives and interests that exist in that field. They can, for example, shorten repair time in power plants and decrease waste in distribution grids, and thus offer more benefits to their employees.

[Unidentified correspondent] What facilities will you extend to the people who will want to invest?

[Mallaki] The most important of the facilities that the Ministry of Energy can extend is the guarantee of the purchase of electricity. In other words, the investors can be sure that their product will be sold and paid for on time. The price too will be guaranteed and it will be a good price. This is the most important of the facilities. Those who are interested can apply to the Ministry of Energy and discuss other points with us.

[Correspondent] Thank you very much. [end recording]

Daily Says Rate of Carded Cotten Production Rises

95LA0372G Tehran RESALAT in Persian 26 Jul 95 p 11

[FBIS Translated Text] Economic Division—This year, for the first time since the victory of the Islamic revolution, the level of production of carded cotton will reach 180,000 tons in the country.

This figure compared to the previous year shows a growth of 60 to 70 percent. Engineer Seyyed Sadeq Al-e Yasin, director general of the textile and clothing industries of the Ministry of Industries, made this announcement in an interview with the economic correspondent of RESALAT and added: With the production of 180,000 tons of carded cotton, 30,000 tons of polyester in the Polyakrin factory of Esfahan, and some amounts of imported viscos, this year the production units of the cotton system will not need cotton imports.

Eng. Al-e Yasin stated that "considering" the size of the textile industries in Iran, in order to make full use of the existing capabilities in this sector we currently use $1.4 billion in foreign currency annually and added: Since the beginning, regarding the new foreign currency decisions, in the textile sector $670 million in requests to open credit have arrived, of which until 31/04/1374 [22 July 1995] more than $120 million in credit has been opened by the Central Bank.

The director general of the textile and clothing industries of the Ministry of Industries said: If the textile production units in the country work at full capacity, the value of production in this sector will be $8 billion to $9 billion annually.

Stating that the textile units are capable of producing more than 1 million tons of clothing and thread annually, he said: The textile units at present, due to the existing production problem, operate on the average under 40 percent of their nominal capacity. The director general of the textile and clothing industries of the Ministry of Industries said: Last year, due to the shortage of raw materials in this sector, only 400,000 tons of goods were produced; this year, the level of production will reach 330,000 tons.

Eng. Al-e Yasin mentioned the main problem of the textile units this year as the shortage of raw materials and added: This year, the textile production units face shortages of materials such as polyester, acrylic, polyester thread, granol [as published] propylene hemp, and chemical dyes, and steps must be taken regarding importing these materials.

Pakistan

Clinton's UN Reforms Said Worth Consideration

BK2410084295 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 24 Oct 95 p 6

[Editorial: "Reforming the UN"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Opening the United Nation's 50th birthday celebrations of a special session of the UN General Assembly, U.S. President Bill Clinton urged world leaders to adopt a five-point plan to combat international crime and terrorism which includes signing of a declaration aimed a telling criminals and terrorists that "you have nowhere to hide. "The measures include an International antiterrorism pact, an offensive on

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drugs, measures to boost cooperation among national police forces and a mechanism to track the illegal traffic of arms and hazardous materials. In his 15-minute speech President Clinton lauded the impressive achievements of the world body but added that it must reform itself to remain relevant otherwise it would be sidelined as a forum for discussing and managing world affairs.

The current meeting at the UN headquarters is the biggest gathering of world leaders ever at one place. It is being attended by 140 out of the 185 UN member countries. The main move in the creation of the United Nations was Franklin Roosevelt who knew how a falled peace after World War I contributed to the Great Depression and the rise of tyrants. He built support among wartime allies for a new attempt for collective security. Finally, the UN Charter was framed and signed in San Francisco 50 years ago, shortly after the death of Roosevelt. Somehow, the United Nations never got to work the way its founders hoped. Its credibility was also damaged by many peacekeeping failures. Today the UN is deeply weakened by the gulf that exists between the General Assembly which has too little power and the Security Council — more exactly the permanent members who have too much. The most dangerous threat to the UN has always come from big powers promoting their self interest through the exercise of their vote or veto, as the case may be. There are also infinite variations to the way the permanent members of the UNSC [United Nations Security Council] keep some issues from coming up for debate or from producing a strong resolution. President Clinton's suggestion of bringing reforms in the UN is, therefore, worthy of serious consideration.

Skeptics however say reforms will never be approved because they would dilute the power of the most powerful, especially the United States. All the same, some suggestions are worth considering: (A) The number of non-voting members in the Security Council, now 10 should be increased and the use of veto be phased out; (B) At present the United Nations reflects member governments not their citizens. It has no outlet for non-governmental groups, from religious institutions to women's organisations. As such there should be a People's Assembly to complement the General Assembly; (C) The procedure for choosing a secretary general should be improved to stop the horse trading which now goes on; (D) Countries that don't pay their UN bills (the biggest defaulter today is the United States) should be deprived of their vote. As a former U.S. Attorney General, who studies the working of the UN for one year at the request of President George Bush, said in his report, "The United Nations can reform itself — and from within. The potential is there and the talent is there, but first you've got to clear away 45 (now 50) years of debris.

Bhutto Addresses International Issues With Leaders

BK2310063995 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 0500 GMT 23 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has held separate meetings with a number of world leaders attending the UN anniversary celebrations and discussed with them international issues of vital importance to Pakistan, including the Kashmir dispute. At these meetings held at the UN headquarters yesterday with 27 world leaders, the prime minister discussed suggestions by some countries for expansion of the Security Council and assigning of a new role to the United Nations in the coming years.

The foreign secretary, Mr. Najmuddin Shaikh, told newsmen at a briefing that many countries assured the prime minister of their support to Pakistan's stand on Kashmir. Regarding expansion of the membership of the Security Council, views of these leaders was not different from those of Pakistan, as they did not want new spheres of influence in this world organization.

Radio Pakistan's special representative says the prime minister, who is at the UN headquarters to attend the anniversary celebrations, availed the opportunity of presence of world leaders at UN headquarters and held detailed one-to-one meetings with presidents of Uganda, Niger, and Maldives. The Ugandan president invited Ms. Benazir Bhutto to visit his country and also proposed manifold increase in economic cooperation with Pakistan. He showed keen interest in hiring manpower from Pakistan, especially doctors and engineers.

The prime minister also gave interviews to BBC Television, Voice of America, and the U.S. Fox Television. In the evening, the prime minister was the guest of honor at a dinner given by President Clinton for heads of state and government attending the UN anniversary celebrations.

PRC Reaffirms Support for Nation's Kashmir Stand

BK2410071095 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 0300 GMT 24 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] China has again reaffirmed its political support to the Pakistan's stand on Kashmir. The reiteration of Chinese position was made during the meeting of Chinese President Jiang Zemin and Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto in New York yesterday.

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The Pakistan foreign secretary told the newsmen that two leaders held talks in a very cordial atmosphere. The two leaders talked about the future role of the UN and its achievements. Prime minister invited the Chinese president to visit Pakistan and again reviewed the progress of implementation on other Chinese projects.

Prince Sultan of Saudi Arabia also had a meeting with the prime minister, which lasted for about half an hour. Prince Sultan reiterated Saudi support on the Kashmir question and said that Kashmir problem should be resolved in accordance with the UN resolution. The two leaders also considered measures for further consolidating the existing close ties of the two countries.

With the president of Sweden, the future role of the UN was discussed, with the two sides agreeing that the UN must now give more attention on economic development of member countries. It was suggested in the meeting that the UN must have independent means of income, and some sort of international cess [surcharge] could be introduced for the purpose. Prime minister informed the Swedish president that false propaganda was being carried out on the issue of child labor in Pakistan, and Swedish president must look into the matter by briefing the human rights groups in Sweden.

President of Sri Lanka met the prime minister and besides discussing bilateral matters also thanked Pakistan for its moral support for eradicating terrorism in Sri Lanka.

The U.S. secretary for energy, Ms. Hazel O'Leary, called on prime minister and discussed with her how the process of U.S.-financed energy projects could further be consolidated.

The prime minister, Bhutto, told the secretary general of the commonwealth when he called on her that president of Pakistan will attend the commonwealth conference in Auckland, as she was preoccupied in the country. Radio Pakistan's special representative Syed Nazir Bukhari says the secretary general informed the prime minister that the commonwealth conference this year will frame a plan of action for the economic development of member countries, and new schemes will be discussed to provide them international finance.

PRC Offers Joint Venture in Machinery Production

BK2310053195 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 0300 GMT 23 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] China has offered to start joint ventures with Pakistan in the manufacture of machinery and equipment. The offer was made by the leader of the visiting Chinese trade delegation, Mr. Zhang Zhede, while addressing the members of SITE [Sindh Industrial and Trading Estate] Association of Industry in Karachi yesterday. He said during their two-day stay in Karachi the delegation has explored possibilities of joint ventures in equipment and machinery. He said his company has signed an agreement with a Pakistani firm to set up a park over 50 acres of land to provide recreation facilities to the people in Karachi.

'Sacked' Afghan Envoys, Officials Return to Kabul

BK2010100895 Islamabad THE NATION in English 20 Oct 95 p 4

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Peshawar — At least nine out of 17 sacked Afghan diplomats and officials, have left Peshawar for Kabul and other parts of Afghanistan on Thursday [19 October].

Those who left Peshawar for Afghanistan were former Afghan Charge d'affaires in Islamabad, Nasim Faqiri, four Afghan officials of Peshawar-based Afghan offices, one Assistant Cultural Secretary of Islamabad and three Jam'iyat-e Eslami stalwarts from Peshawar. However, details about remaining eight sacked Afghan diplomats and officials from Islamabad, Karachi and Quetta could not ascertain.

Commander Musa Khan, a Peshawar-based Afghan Consul General when contacted told THE NATION that nine people have left Peshawar for Kabul and other parts of Afghanistan.

He confirmed that Nasim Faqiri has left Pakistan but he was unable to say about his destination. He said that the departure letters for four Afghan officials were prepared by the Afghan Consulate General in Peshawar.

Those Afghan officers who left Peshawar for Kabul were 'Abdol Rehman and Ahmed Zia of Afghan Trade Commissionerate, Gholam Sarwar of the Afghan National Bank and Mir Dawud Shah of Transporate Bank. Along with them Farooq Chakri, Assistant Cultural Secretary at Islamabad-based Embassy has also left Peshawar for Kabul. Farooq Chakari is the brother of Afghan Minister Siddique Chakari.

The Jam'iyat-e Eslami stalwarts included Mam'ur Abdollah, Amanullah and Brig. Abdollah have also left Peshawar for Kabul. All of them left Peshawar for Kabul among with their family members.

Musa Khan a Peshawar-based Afghan Consul General has expressed ignorance about the Afghan diplomats and officials sacked from Karachi, Quetta and Islamabad.

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Army Official's Views on Regional Issues Reported

LD2110192595 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Pashto 1230 GMT 21 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] We now draw your attention to an interview with General Aslam Beg, former Pakistani chief of general staff. General Aslam Beg was asked: As you know the situation in Afghanistan has now reached a crucial stage: Kabul has been surrounded; Taleban continues their attacks and the Rabbani supporters are fiercely resisting. If Rabbani losses his control on Kabul, another group or groups who are now in an anti-Rabbani coalition may start fighting for power. As a result, the Muslims, and in particular the poor and helpless people, will suffer. If a stable government is not set up in Afghanistan, the situation in this country is bound to effect the neighboring countries — Iran and Pakistan. What is your view in this respect and what solution do you suggest? General Aslam Beg in reply said:

[Begin Aslam Beg recording, in Urdu with superimposed Pashto translation] A while ago I was in Iran. I went to Amam Husayn University. I also visited the Institute of International Political Studies and conversed with scholars where I expressed my view in this respect. I also wrote a long article on this topic. It has probably already been printed there in newspapers.

In connection to your question, I again say the same thing that Afghanistan's issue is not that simple; it is necessary that it must be perceived. There is a conspiracy. The conspiracy is that the U.S. present influence in Pakistan that began in 1953, starting from the date when the Shah of Iran was brought back to Iran. This virus travelled also to Pakistan from Iran. During the Ayub Khan's first martial law and then in the second and third martial law period, [the U.S. influence] was firmly embedded. This influence has recently been greatly increased.

Regarding Afghanistan I must say that the United States is trying to increase its influence in this country. Because, if it increases its influence in Afghanistan then the whole region will come under its influence and control. For example, [the United States] will then have a free hand to do whatever it wishes in Iran; likewise, in Central Asia. This place [Afghanistan] can be used for expanding influence in China and in India. This is a major conspiracy. The future will tell us who has a hand in this conspiracy. In my view, talking about the Taleban movement is not that simple or easy. The purpose is to somehow unite the Taleban with Dostam and Hekmatyar, as well as with other elements, and thus to prepare the ground most solidly for safeguarding their interests. Under these circumstances, it is very necessary for Iran and Pakistan to confront this conspiracy with care and consideration. Otherwise, both countries integrity will be damaged. [end recording]

Indian-Russian Deal Reported for MiG-21 Sale

BK2410075995 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 24 Oct 95 p 12

[Report by Mohammad Yasin: "IAF To Get Upgraded Version of MiG- 21"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad, Oct 23 — India has finally signed a deal worth 500 million dollars with Russia for equipping five Squadrons of its MiG-21 aircraft to make them more than a match for F-16, according to the defence sources.

The MiG-21 has been upgraded under a special contract for the Indian Air Force (IAF) by Mikyoan, the makers of the aircraft.

According to reports available here, the upgraded version of MiG- 21 was displayed for the first time at the Parts Air Show. Both Russian and Israeli observers present at the show were unanimous in their assessment that the upgradation would make the MiG-21 more than a match for F-16.

With the induction of the completely replaced avionics in the upgraded MiG-21, and a computer which is more efficient than the nine computers in F-16's, the upgraded MiG-21 would be able to track night targets at a time and simultaneously hit two. Additionally the new version of MiG-21 would be able to engage in aerial targets attack with active radar-guided missiles. This would also have a special radar and radar guided missiles for ground and sea targets, thus converting the intercepter to a multi-purpose tactical fighter.

The upgraded MiG-21 would be equipped with a special launcher to counter missiles aimed at the aircraft, a ground mapping guided destruction of underground targets and automatic selection of the most dangerous targets. The aircraft would be equipped with avionics offered by an Israeli Company.

According to a report published in a recent issue of DEFENCE AND ARMAMENT REVIEW, both Russia and Israel are to cooperate with India in upgrading the new version of MiG-21.

A salient feature of the new version of MiG-21 is that the new liquid display in the cockpit are repeated on the visor of the pilot's helmet. This means that the pilot has that information in sight whichever way he looks. It also means that he can focus on a target by turning his head without turning the aircraft.

According to the reports, the Display and Sight Helmet is considered among the most revolutionary technical

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breakthrough for pilots. The Israeli Company has also fitted the MiG with a new software "with a back-up software station for constant upgradation".

Meanwhile, quoting Indian Defence Ministry sources, the Indian newspapers report that the Sino-Indian agreement is a major breakthrough in the backdrop of deadlock which prevailed for two years on account of certain unresolved issues. Russia was reluctant to give a final nod on two accounts. The first related to the Indian insistence on incorporating the Israeli equipment for "Headup Display". The second related to the decision of the joint ministerial commission finally laying to rest doubts on the continuance of 1993 agreement pertaining to debt repayment in Indian currency.

To begin with the upgradation programme would be carried out at the Moscow Aircraft Production Organisation. Under the terms of the deal, later on the Russian authorities will help the Hindustan Aeronautics to set up the upgradation facilities in Bangalore where about 200 aircraft would be upgraded.

Bhutto To Discuss Purchase of French Mirage Planes

BK2010103195 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 20 Oct 95 p 1, 11

[Article by Aroosa Alam]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad, Oct 19 — In line with the decision of last JCSC [Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee] meeting held in Rawalpindi, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto will meet the French President in Paris late this month to initiate high level political dialogue over the facilitation of Supplier's Credit for the purchase of 32 Mirage 2000-5s by Pakistan airforce.

According to highly placed official sources Ms Bhutto on her way back from the United States will stop over in Paris where she is scheduled to hold wide-ranging discussions, including matters related to the financial aspects of Mirage deal with President Chirac.

The JCSC in its meeting held on October 9 had observed that while the Ministries of Defence and Foreign Affairs of France strongly recommend the French Government give Pakistan the Supplier's Credit in order to facilitate the sale of 32 Mirage 2000-5s, the French Finance Ministry is opposing the credit on the plea that Pakistan had already exhausted its ceiling in the purchase of 5 submarines.

On the recommendation of Air Board and Air Chief Marshal Abbas Khattack's decision, the Government of Pakistan last month decided in principle to finally procure Dessault Mirage 2000-5 as country's front line attack aircraft. An amount of 1.4 billion US dollars were already lying in Airforce's kitty for the specific purpose of buying a suitable front line fighter for the force.

According to official sources, the price has been worked out by both the parties at about 2.5 billion U.S. dollar for the package which includes support, maintenance and training. This is, however, not known as yet whether the purchase will be accompanied by the transfer of technology which is mandatory for any defence purchase by GOP [Government of Pakistan].

To fill the gap of abut one billion U.S. dollars Pakistan requires the facility of Supplier's Credit to be paid over a mutually worked out payment schedule. The matter of MP's intervention in a purely commercial deal was raised by the Air Chief at the JCSC meeting and the participants agreed that Prime Minister Bhutto may use her good offices to prevail upon the French leadership to help solve the problem.

According to well informed circles for the French Government it would be an occasion to return that favour Pakistan extended to it by recently concluding the submarine deal going out of its way amidst serious allegations of kickbacks only to give a new lease of life to dying French submarine building industry.

It is believed though the offer from Sweden was equally attractive in both in terms of commissions and technology, Pakistan opted to procure French Agost-90s after the personal intervention of President Mitterrand who raised the matter during his meeting with President Leghari who met him on his way back from a private visit to USA last year. It is hoped France will return the gesture commented one source.

Prime minister Benazir Bhutto will not only discuss the issue of credit with President Chirac, but also seek sovereign guarantees from his government that the equipment's supplied to Pakistan would not be available to its traditional adversary India.

According to experts there are four areas where Pakistan will seek guarantees in order to maintain an edge over India's Mirage 2000s. These include the range of the aircraft, manoeuvrablity, weapon carriage points and lastly and most importantly the Avionics of the aircraft which include RDY look down radar. France has already furnished similar assurances in the submarine deal.

Pakistan has been negotiating with France for the purchase of Mirage 2000 and 2000-5 for about last five years but due to its high prices it always refrained from making a final decision and instead its hopes in the delivery of F-16s. But IAF's latest induction of Russian fighters into service and other military build ups together with veiled threats of war by Indian leadership

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compelled Islamabad to conclude the multi-billion deal with France.

According to Defence sources the multi-role version of the French fighter will represent a significant boost to PAF [Pakistan Air Force] which had been striving hard for a front line war plane for quite sometime.

The Mirage 2000-5 provides a true BVR (beyond visual range) and multi-target engagement potential with the MICA air-to-air missile, while also offering satisfactory performance as strike aircraft. These performances are not confined to conventional weaponry, given the good selection of guided air-to-surface weapons offered by the French industries.

The very good payload/range for both strike missions and air combat, topped by excellent manoeuvrability and maximum speed performance, should make Mirage 2000-5 a viable choice for PAF that requires a flexible weapon system, with the added advantage of a reduced risk of political interference from the supplier country", a source commented.

While experts are expressing serious reservations about the price and the capabilities of Mirage-2000-5 fighter, the PAF officials maintain that under the circumstances there could not be a better choice than the French fighter.

According to independent experts Mirage 2000-5 were primarily interceptors and don't have multidimensional role to support land forces. They said its avionics could either be optimised for air-to-air role or for the air-to-ground role but not both at the same time.

When the Muslim contacted the Air Headquarters for its comment, official sources said that state-of-the-art Mirage 2000-5 is a highly manoeuvrable high-speed fighter which could serve and it will be unfair to optimise the craft for simple ground support role.

PPI [Pakistan Press International] ADDS: French Chief of Army Staff General Marc Monohal will be paying a five-day official visit to Pakistan from Nov 2 at the invitation of his Pakistani counterpart Gen Abdul Waheed.

Informed sources said that during his visit, Gen Monchal would meet President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari, Defence Minister Aftab Shahban Mirani and the three Services Chief.

Sources said during course of their discussions, Pakistani officials and the French Army Chief would explore possibilities for further strengthening of Pak-French cooperation in the field of defence.

Recalling Gen Abdul Waheed's recent visit to France, sources said besides holding talks with the French military top brass, the Army chief had also visited Euro-Copter Company of France, producing combat helicopters, adding that there were bright chances of a meaningful cooperation between the field of defence.

It may be recalled that Pakistan Air Force is currently flying French Mirage aircraft, while negotiations are continuing for purchase of Mirage-2000 for the PAF from France. Similarly, Pakistan Navy has already placed order for three Agosta sub-marines.

Sources said the French army chief would also visit various defence establishments as well as industries during his visit.

Deal on 'Costly' Mirage Planes Detailed

BK2110121995 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 21 Oct 95 pp 1, 10

[Article by Shakil Shalkh: "Mirage Pakistan May Select 2000-5"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad — With Pakistan coming closer to strike a costly deal for acquiring high-tech Mirage 2000-5 from France, a 2-day meeting of the Pak-French Joint Committee on Armament Collaboration will start here October 30.

This will be the third meeting of this forum, which provides the two sides an opportunity every year to look into better mutual understanding in relations between the two countries in the field of defence cooperation. Last year, the Pak-French Joint Committee on Armament Collaboration (PFJCAC) had met in Paris.

According to official sources, the French side will be led by a 4-star French general, General Engineer Daniel Berthault, who will be assisted by a number of other officials including France's defence attache in Islamabad. Secretary Production M. Mazhar Rafi will lead the Pakistani side. He will be assisted by officials of Pakistan Armed Forces.

The agenda for the talks has already been exchanged. It includes matters relating to Pakistan Army, Navy and Air Force, according to sources.

"The Mirage 2000-5 issue will also come up in these discussions, as it was discussed in the last PFJCAC meeting held on October 27, 1994 in Paris," said official sources, who added that "France had already handed over technical proposals with budgetary estimates of Mirage. Pakistan has been working on two different options in the expected Mirage 2000-5 deal. Firstly, initial package of 24 single seaters plus 6 to 8 dual seaters (depending on final price negotiations); and option to order 16 single plus 4 dual seaters aircraft at same prices/terms within 3 to 4 years, according to official sources.

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The Air Headquarters, sources told THE NEWS, has already conveyed to the government that all aircraft are primarily for air superiority role and qualification of non-French ground attack weapons will not be asked for.

According to the sources, a minimum of 200 each of MICA and Magic-II air-to-air missiles will also form the whole package, which will cost Pakistan around $2.5 to $2.8 billion.

While Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto will make a personal request to President Chirac for extending credit facility for purchasing the high-tech Mirage 2000-5, international reports reveal that "Pakistan is interested in buying 40 Su-27 fighters and Pakistani defence officials confirmed this to Russian State Duma Deputy Chairman Aleksandr Vengerovskiy during his recent [as published] In case the French Government declines Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's request for credit facility, the prime minister, who will visit Paris on her way back from New York, will ask for making a long term payment schedule."

In a related development, a 20-member technical team of Dassault, Manufacturers of Mirage 2000-5, arrived in Islamabad some days back.

Official sources say that the French team includes experts on aircraft, avionics, radar and weapon systems. The Dassault team has already held several rounds of talks with officials, engineers, aviators, and technicians of Pakistan Air Force in a bid to finalise the list of these systems to be supplied to Pakistan coupled with the training package, added the sources.

"Pakistan", said sources in the AHQ [Army Headquarters], "has conveyed to France that it requires spares for two years, flight simulator, ICMS plus support, programme management, role equipment plus support, GSE, training/technical assistance/integrated product support, DOC/Mission plan system/training aids, besides MAGIC-II plus support, MICA plus support, spiral (CFD) and gun ammunition, alf [as published] includes all these systems, the cost of per copy will be around $93.33 million, which by any standard is extremely hefty," said the sources. "As far as credit facility is concerned, Pakistan requires to get credit facility similar to Agosta submarines deal, i.e. almost 45 percent of the total cost; while the second option will be to spread the tight payment schedule, which France has given to Pakistan, to nearly 10 to 12 years instead of just 5 years," said official sources privy to the whole development. This time, said official sources, Pakistan will also make an attempt to bind the French for providing spares and support equipment on reasonable prices, with no high escalation of prices in the future.

"It is being specially considered that French industry increases the price of equipment to an exorbitant level after striking a deal, and Pakistan wants to discuss the price issue at length," said the sources, who added that Pakistan had already protested to Paris for exorbitant increase in prices of spares (Crotale overhaul), which in one case amounts to 1254 percent. PAF [Pakistan Air Force] has already provided a list of spares with price increases.

Sri Lanka

Tamil Tigers Reportedly Kill 19 More Sinhalese

BK2310125395 Hong Kong AFP in English 1224 GMT 23 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Colombo, Oct 23 (AFP) — Tamil Tiger guerrillas hacked 19 Sinhalese civilians to death and torched several houses and shops in a remote village in southeastern Sri Lanka Monday [23 October], police said.

Gunmen of the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) carried out the massacre in the hamlet of Kotiyagala in the Monaragala district at dawn Monday, police said.

Six children, five women and eight men were slashed with knives and beaten to death by an unspecified number of attackers, police said.

The latest LTTE massacre came two days after 73 Sinhalese were massacred in three villages across the island's eastern region.

The military say the Tamil Tigers have stepped up attacks against civilians in a bid to blunt a major military offensive against their stronghold in the northern Jaffna peninsula.

President Addresses UN on Combating 'Terrorism'

BK2310150795 Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 23 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sri Lankan President Chandrika Kumaratunga, one of the four world leaders who addressed the General Assembly on the opening day itself, calls for concerted international action to combat terrorism and to compel the terrorists to renounce violence and enter the democratic process. The following is the text of her speech:

"I am deeply honoured to represent the people of Sri Lanka on this historic occasion.

Sri Lanka has always reposed great hopes in the United Nations for effective collective action to achieve our

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central aim of socio-economic development and thereby ensure social stability and peace for our people.

The transition from the Cold War era to a new world order has shifted the arena of conflict from the international to the national.

Whatever the overlay of such conflict - whether they take on religious, racial or other forms, they stem from poverty and social inequality. We believe therefore that the foundations of peace must be built on economic and social stability.

The new agenda of the United Nations with its heavy emphasis on peace keeping operations has impacted adversely on the development process.

As a developing country, Sri Lanka attaches great importance to the role which the United Nations can, and must, perform in advancing the development process. Unless the principles of the Declaration on the Right to Development adopted in 1986 are applied positively with the full commitment of both developed and developing countries, the development process will not be sufficiently advanced.

We believe that the effective strengthening of the United Nations system is an essential requisite for advancing its goals. The organisation has regrettably sometimes come to be seen by the more vulnerable States as primarily serving the interests of the more powerful states.

We welcome the timely initiative of the president of last year's General Assembly to strengthen and empower the United Nations system.

Such an effective empowerment requires, in our view, that: firstly development priorities should not be sacrificed in the pursuit of politico-military operations which must be set at realistic, even modest levels; secondly, decision making by the United Nations in all areas must be based on the full engagement of all members. The Security Council in particular must become more representative and more responsive to the general membership of the United Nations; and thirdly, commitments made for multilateral action in all fields must be honoured and diligently pursued.

In short, the revitalising process must enhance the capacity of the United Nations rather than merely effect economies and scale down its scope.

In the index of human development Sri Lanka rates high among developing countries, but we have been traumatised by ethnic tensions kept unnaturally high by the forces of terrorism and chauvinism.

Nonetheless, my government is resolved to fulfil its mandate by seeking through political negotiations, solutions to our problems which would enable our people to live in peace, security and freedom.

There are however obstacles in our way. An armed group which claims to represent the Tamil minority has been engaged in violent acts against successive popularly elected governments preventing them from ensuring peace and justice for all in our land.

This group which also operates on foreign soil maintains an international network for fund raising based on coercion and blackmail. That network has a close nexus with powerful commercial interests engaged in narcotic trafficking, trade in illicit arms and smuggling of illegal immigrants.

Concerted international action is essential to combat terrorism and to compel the terrorists to renounce violence and enter the democratic process. Unfortunately, effective action to that end has been frustrated through sterile philosophical debate about the nature of terrorism.

However, in the South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC) we have overcome that difficulty by focusing our attention on manifestations of terrorism. The SAARC Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism provides for a collective response. This centres on a comprehensive legal regime and practical measures to combat terrorism.

I would urge similar action by the United Nations to give legal effect to the obligations arising from the Declaration on the Elimination of Terrorism adopted last year.

My government is committed to provide full opportunities in Sri Lanka for the development of the total human person. While promoting rapid economic growth, we seek to distribute its benefits equitably. This involves the maintenance of democratic institutions and the preservation of human rights. It makes of politics, the discharge of a public trust, where decision making is transparent and free of corruption, and everyone in public life is accountable for their actions.

In the end, the United Nations will essentially be what we, the member States make of it, not what individual States seek to make from it.

On behalf of the government and people of Sri Lanka, I take this opportunity to wish the United Nations success in its endeavours to transform the separate dreams of all the nations into a multifaceted yet harmonious reality."

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